Break out the moonrakers: Space Race II is coming



MATT LISAC

Just when I was getting worried that there weren't going to be any more *Star Wars* prequels, China comes to my rescue.

Recently, China sent a probe to the moon in an effort to compete with long-time rival Japan for domination of the final frontier. Things are looking up for sci-fi fans everywhere: now I just have to stay alive long enough to see the exciting parts, which should be happening sometime in the next century. Hopefully our cryogenics programs are advanced enough to get me there—I'd love to wake up next to Walt Disney on the day they christen a new Death Star.

Ever since the Russian Sputnik program sputtered away into the darkness of almost-capitalism, this whole space thing has been a real drag. First, the Americans go to space, and, once satisfied with that, the moon. Then, to shake things up, they travel further into space and currently have their eyes firmly set on Mars. Wake me up when the play's over, grandpa.

Basically, this mouse received a cookie, and now he's slowly seeing how far he can push his luck, which makes for some boring exploration. The best part of the space race was the race, not the space. That part is surprisingly dull (and lacking in ether), while humans battling humans *in space* has always been totally rad.

This is why I propose the greatest East vs West showdown in the history of the universe. It will be ten times better than the Summit Series, and 20 times greater than the Cold War. It'll be The Battle for the Moon—the kind of war that makes you pee your pants a little bit out of excitement.

In the interest of saving time (we're not going to live forever, after all), we should look for ways to speed along China's progress. We must have some good space secrets to share, and potentially some FAQs—a quick ground control to Major Mao, if you will. At the very least, NASA could give them the movie set where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and some other people pretended to walk on the moon.

I don't believe that we're using the CanadArm at the moment. Last I heard, Canadian astronauts were experimenting with passing a space-beer from one end of the International Space Station to the other, and there are future plans for experimental space high-fives. Although these are important endeavours, I reckon we could lend the thing to the Chinese for a few years—just so long as they pinky swear that they'll bring it back.

Once the shuttle Mao VII lands on the moon, Team West should follow suit as quickly as possible. That's where bases come in because if television has taught us anything, it's that you need bases. Lots of bases. Thankfully, each side has experimented with enclosed artificial eco-systems. Russia can pack up BIOS 3 and send it to the moon, the Americans can shuttle up Biosphere 2, and Pauly Shore can live in the BioDome.

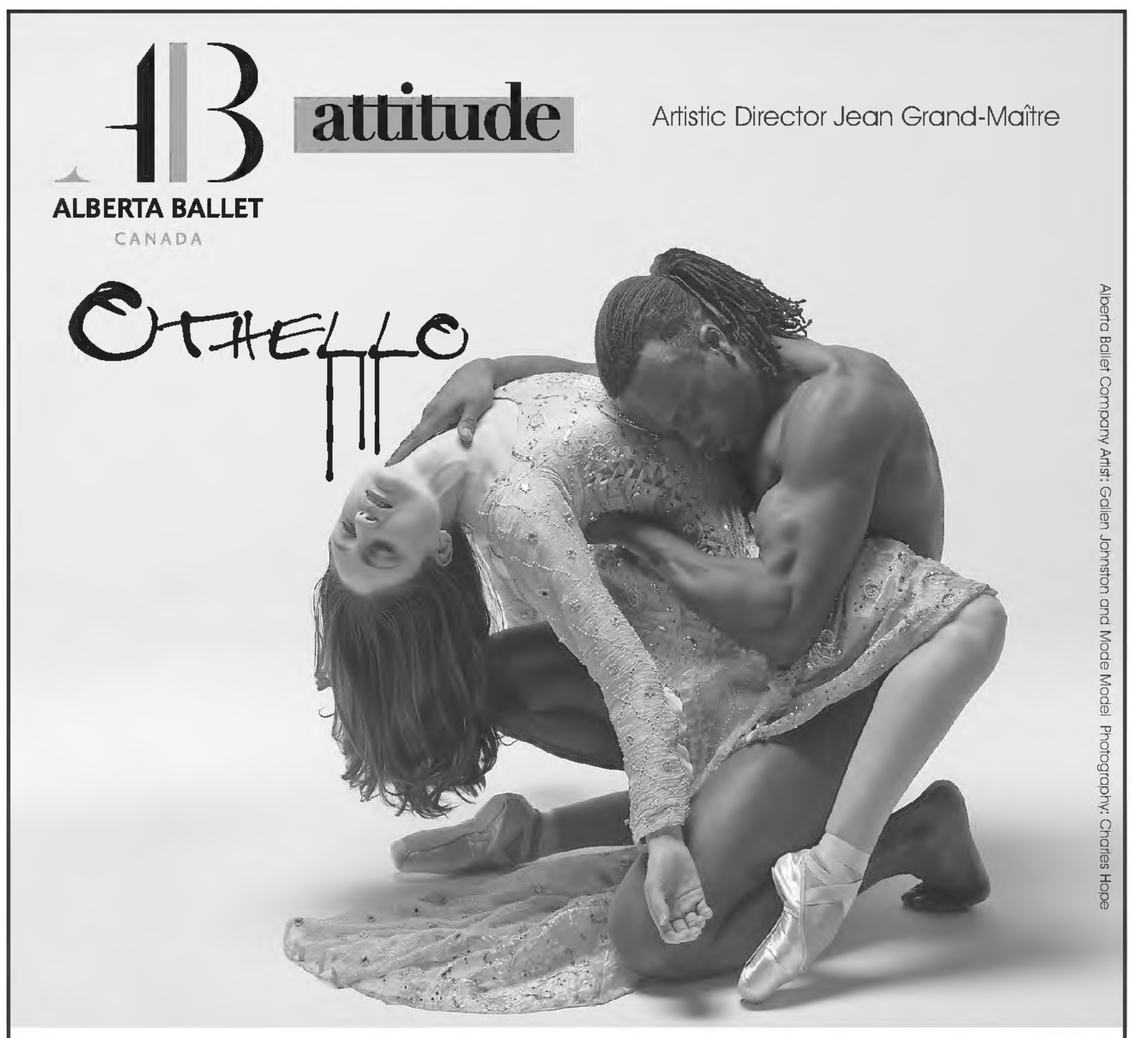


JEFF MARTIN

Once the bases are set up, we'll need to address the weapon inequity between the East and the West. I propose a shinny-hockey-inspired distribution of guns, missiles, bombs, and the like: all the weapons will go in the middle, then a trustworthy neutral friend will kneel on the ground with their eyes closed, and toss the hardware to each side.

After this is done and everyone's satisfied, we'll use our buddy's cell phone to conveniently call our friend who happens to be really good at space wars and unfairly claim him for our side. This secret commando will of course be James Earl Jones. With the voice of Darth Vader on your side, you can never lose.

Sure, the East will claim that this isn't fair, that we have more guys than them, no ringers allowed, cheaters never win, etc. But we'll plug our ears and make crying noises until they shut up. Then, when they're not looking, we'll start early and blow the shit out of them with our space nukes. That'll teach those assholes not to mess with the West. Then we can safely explore space on our own at a leisurly pace.





Eight out of 10 Canadians will be infected with HPV in their lifetimes

– will you be one of them?

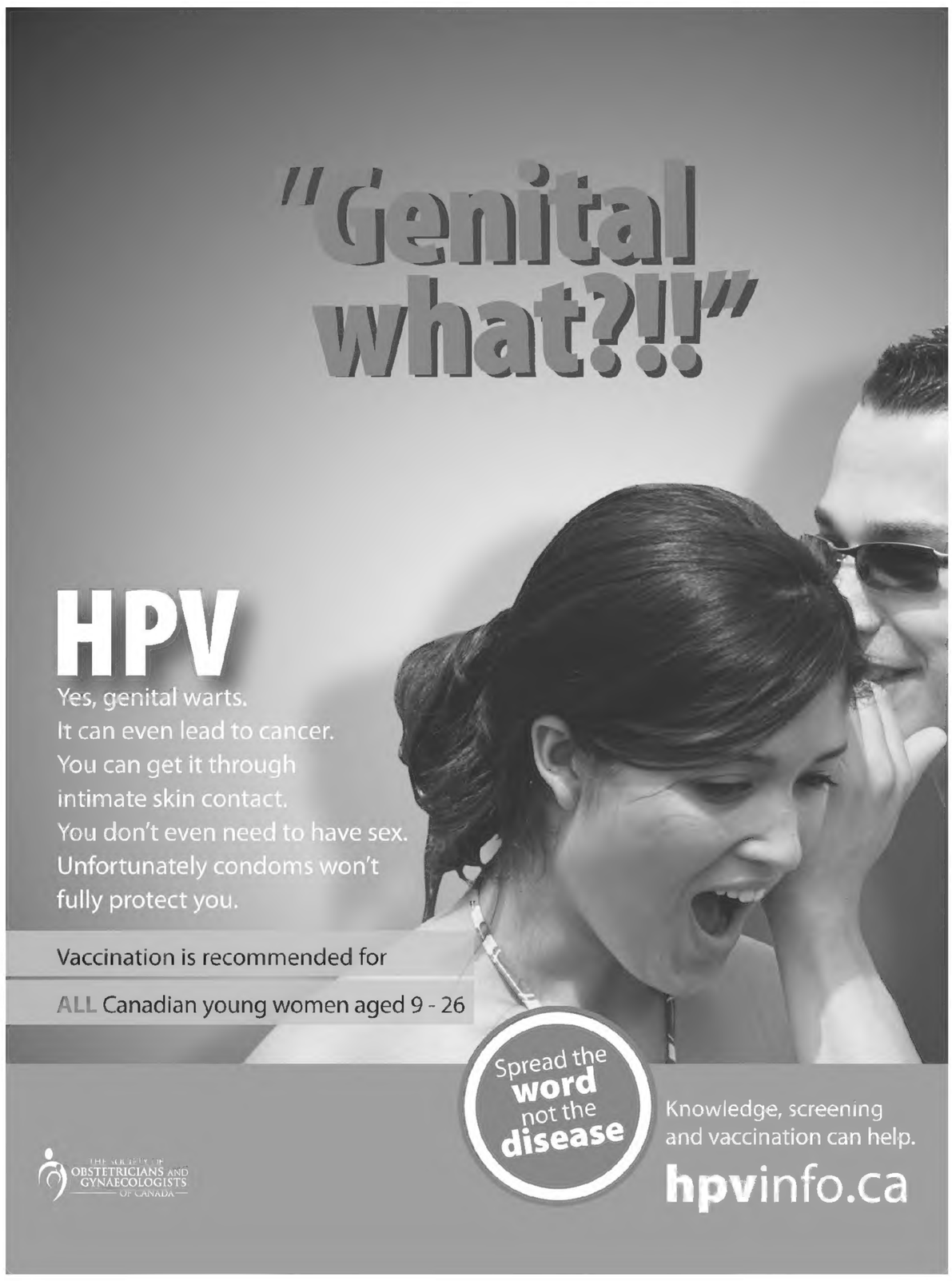
Not if the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has anything to do with it. The SOGC is urging young adults to expose what lurks between the sheets in order to protect themselves against this highly contagious – and potentially dangerous – virus.

HPV, or the human papillomavirus, is a common sexually transmitted infection. So common, in fact, that there are over 100 different types of HPV. Most will clear on their own within two years, without you even knowing you had it, however some are more persistent and may lead to long-term consequences. Also, certain sexually transmitted strains can cause genital warts, and others can even cause cancer. The warts can vary in size and appearance, ranging from growths that look flat, raised, or even cauliflower-shaped. The swellings can sometimes be itchy, and if they're allowed to grow they can cause sores, bleeding, and can even block vaginal openings.

You're probably thinking that someone would have to be pretty clueless to hook up with a partner who's covered in genital warts. But there's just one problem - not everyone infected will have symptoms. So, whether you're all about staying exclusive or playing the field, a partner can still pass HPV on to you without even knowing they have it.

And as if the thought of genital warts isn't enough to kill the mood, other types of HPV are the number one cause of cervical cancer. It's a serious disease - this year, about 1,350 women will be diagnosed with it, and another 400 will die from it.

Condoms do provide a safety net against HPV, but they can't promise to be 100% effective. This is because HPV spreads so easily that all it takes is skin-to-skin sexual contact for it to make the jump from one person to the next, and a condom might not completely cover an infected area.



There's too much of a risk involved to stay powerless against HPV. Up to 80% of Canadians will be exposed to it, many before they turn 26 years old, so why not make today the day you take charge of your sexual health? Since HPV infections can go undetected, getting regular Pap smears should be at the top of every young woman's to-do list. It's the best way of identifying HPV and catching early signs of cervical cancer before it's too late.

Of course, prevention is just as important as awareness. In case you're not convinced, let's get into some more heavy numbers: The one and only option that provides close to 100% protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause about 70% of cervical cancers, as well as types 6 and 11, which cause 90% of genital warts, is the HPV vaccination. Medical experts, such as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, recommend vaccination of all women aged nine to 26. But don't think that once you're vaccinated it means no more Pap tests. It's not a question of choosing one or the other – they're both important components in the fight against HPV. This year, more than 400,000 women will have an abnormal Pap smear, many indicating pre-cancerous conditions.

Getting informed is another major component in keeping your body and your sex life healthy. This doesn't just go for young women, but young men as well. A recent study found out that less than a third of both men and women have ever heard of HPV. Rise above the statistics. Get all the facts at www.hpvinfo.ca and talk to a doctor about protecting yourself, and your partners.



Going Green

Making campus eco-friendly, one initiative at a time

By Catherine Scott
Illustration by Norman Lau
Photo by Nadiya Balukh



At a time when dire warnings about climate change dominate the headlines, we all have to start thinking about the little things, like how long your shower was this morning or what you're going to do with this copy of the *Gateway* once you're done reading it. But have you ever wondered what happens when you bring 40 000 people together in a condensed space? The degree of environmental impact is suddenly on a much larger scale.

Fortunately, one upside of bringing so many people together is that it generates a lot of ideas and innovation, and as a result, there are now measures being put in place by the University to curb our collective carbon footprint on the planet.

However, unlike the daily flow of students and staff, "going green" is not a change that can appear overnight. As Don Hickey, U of A Vice President (Facilities and Operations), explains, one important thing to consider when it comes to campus sustainability initiatives is practicality. For example, our chilly climate is a major factor: we can't rely on things like solar power all year long when winter days see only six hours of sunlight.

Still, Hickey explains that the U of A has always been smart about its sustainable measures, going back at least to 1972, when the university was a pioneer in paper recycling.

"If you look at our footprints, we've been very engaged on recycling, energy management programs, behavioural programs," Hickey explained.

The most recent step towards this planned reduction is last week's launch of a new recycling transfer centre. It will serve to compact recyclables on campus so that more can be done and fewer trips are necessary to off-campus recycling centres. It is estimated that 40 per cent (or 4200 metric tonnes) of the university's waste will be moved from landfills to materials recovery facilities. In addition, they will burn fewer fossil fuels in hauling recycling away.

The U of A's Sustainability Measures and Initiatives plan outlines various steps for a green future for the institution: by 2010, it wants to cut its output of waste by 30 per cent. Other measures are already in place: for example, the heater plug-ins in the parkades have timers and temperature sensors that won't let electricity run unless it's cold enough, and motion-sensor lights in offices and classrooms are also being installed.

The Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS), a student-run organization operating as an official service of the Students' Union, is looking to engage students on this matter as well. According to ECOS director Lisa Dockman, her office oversees a variety of programs that deal with reducing the environmental effects caused by students.

"That means we operate programs and services to encourage students to live more environmentally friendly lifestyles and to make more life-sustainable decisions," Dockman explains.

The mission statement of ECOS is, she says, to educate and involve, research and recommend, and provide resources. They educate with "Green Res" presentations for Lister Hall, East Campus Village, Newton Place, HUB, and other campus residences, and on campus with their "Living Green" presentation. ECOS is also responsible for educating SU employees about environmental awareness. Thanks to a new direction for ECOS this year, they now play a role in advising the SU regarding policy changes and review and examine existing policies to encourage environmentally sustainabile implementations whenever possible.

In addition to their educational programs, ECOS runs a bike library, which rents out bikes to students for $40 per month. They have also engaged in a naturalization project in the courtyard of the Education Building: ECOS encourages native plant species to be grown here, so there is less need for maintenance and irrigation. Finally, ECOS also manages the Campus Community Garden situated in East Campus Village, which grows organic herbs and vegetables and is maintained entirely by ECOS volunteers. Hickey also added that the university takes care to plant species native to Alberta throughout campus.

Lister Hall is working on its own eco-friendly measures with the guidance of the Enviro Committee, directed by Jenna Rodgers. Rodgers explained that they're working on piloting a composting project, called vermicomposting, on some of the floors in the four Lister towers. Each floor that volunteered is equipped with a 53L Rubbermaid bucket with soil and half a pound of red wriggler worms. All of the organic waste on the floor is placed in that bucket, which is periodically emptied. As for other floors implementing the composting, there's a financial concern.

"I've had ten floors express interest and [...] that's pretty much a quarter of [Lister]. I still have people asking me about it; it's just that we don't have the funds to provide every floor with a vermicomposting bin," Rodgers said.

"Let's face it: Alberta doesn't have the best recycling initiatives at all, so not a lot of people grow up with recycling [... or] composting," she continued. "If you teach a handful of people that, yes, paper is recyclable, and no, it's really not difficult to do, hopefully that's a habit they can take back to their households and teach [others]."

Lister also recycles their bottles, which can accumulate to a colossal amount, much of which the Enviro Committee donates back to the Residences while keeping a portion for themselves.

However, these amounts pale in comparison to the costs of implementing green initiatives and technology in the first place. As Hickey explains, apart from a commitment to sustainability, fiscal responsibility is also a part of the university's mandate.

Maintaining energy-saving and environmentally friendly infrastructure, he says, can be incredibly costly, adding that the university has to make sure that each initiative is cost-effective, and that students are getting their money's worth.

"If we made a policy that said we will buy 20 per cent of our power from renewable energy resources, that could mean an extra six or seven million dollars cost to our budget," Hickey said. "It's always cost [versus] effect: if six of seven million goes there, where won't it go?"

The consequences of ignoring costs in an environmental equation, he says, would probably detrimentally affect the University: staff positions, for example, could be affected, and tuition could be hiked up by several thousand dollars.

As for the involvement of individuals regarding eco-friendly habits and lifestyles, there's one thing that Hickey and Rodgers both agree on: behavioural changes are necessary. This includes many small changes that make a difference in the long run, Rodgers says.

"For me, it's not about telling people, 'Compost in your houses, do all this, buy everything organic.' I mean, that's great; it's a choice you can make. But start simple. Throw your paper in the right bin. Throw your bottles in the right bin," she said.

Rodgers also believes that in caring and showing that these small habits matter to you, you may inspire others to do the same.

"I would really encourage people to not be apathetic. Even if they're not going to come out to meetings or stand on a green box and shout out green colours or whatever, just be aware of what's around you."

Campus recycling initiatives

While the University has operated recycling services on campus for over 30 years, 2007 marks some of the most significant changes to its programs. Building & Grounds Services has recently constructed a Recycle Transfer Station (RTS), which allows for increased recycling capacities and the recycling of all types of plastics, glass, and light materials. It's also the first station of its kind in Alberta.

Buildings & Grounds Services is also implementing new colour-sorted recycling bins across campus, as well as trialing composting programs for both organic food wastes and paper towels from washrooms.

Where to recycle on campus

It's relatively easy to find a place to recycle drink containers, but it can be a bit trickier to find receptacles for a lot of other things on campus, including paper sometimes.

Cell phones, batteries, ink cartridges, and paper can be deposited at the recycling boxes offered at the InfoLink booths in SUB, CAB, HUB, and ETLC

Ink cartridges can also be recycled at the University Bookstore (lower level) and the Students' Union Print Centre (lower level SUB).

Egg cartons (cardboard or styrofoam) can be given to Campus Food Bank, who will reuse them.

Clarification

In last week's feature, entitled "Growing Pains: Construction at the University Kicks into High Gear" (18 October), University Architect Len Rodrigues is quoted as saying, "I really like South Lab because it's going to be one of our first 'lead' buildings, so it's going after a sustainable agenda." However, this should have read "LEED buildings."

So, what is LEED?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a Green Building Rating System designed specifically for Canadian climates and construction codes, and is based on the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED status for construction and renovation projects is achieved through a credit-based process that examines sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality, as well as additional innovation and design processes. LEED projects are then assessed one of four levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Lessons from a Seven Foot Penis
Thursday, 25 October at 9pm
Jekyll & Hyde Pub (10610 100 Avenue)

Occasionally, a story comes along that gives hard-working, committed entertainment journalists a bit of a break—just some time to kick back without having to develop ledes and article motifs. Unfortunately, this isn't one of those stories. What possible angle could anyone take to provoke interest in a comedic stage show that conjures up images of a Tony Robbins-sized phallus in a dapper Armani suit giving an educational seminar to a packed auditorium, complete with pie charts and a self-help book?

Norman Nawrocki stars—though not, as one might expect, as a mountainous Bluetooth-mic-toting tallywhacker—as a standup comedian who discusses such pertinent issues as homosexuality, gender identity, safe sex, and more with a humorous, positive bend. His "educational comedy cabarets" include other heroically titled programs such as *Sex Toys!* and *My Dick and Other Manly Tales*.

Second City Trojan "Condomy" Tour
Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre

Yes, there are not one, but two sex-related comedy tours visiting Edmonton, not only in the same week, but *on the same night*. Oh, the calamity of having to choose between one erotically inclined comedic schtick and another side-splittingly farcical exercise in sensuality! Though, to be fair to the giant one-eyed-monster act, this performance only offers indirect sexual connotations, as it's sponsored by Trojan Condoms, allowing for a play on words several times less clever than the organizers probably assumed it would be.

The Second City comedy squad, descendants of the SCTV legends, helms this tour, the only one in North America that can be tested prior to viewing through application to a ripened banana (or plantain, if the tour is less comically endowed).

Hey Ocean!
With the McGowan Family Band
Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
Starlite Room

If you're in the mood for something a little less organ-based this Thursday night, head down to the Starlite to catch this easy-listening pop-funk band from Vancouver. Combining Sublime and Jamiroquai with a female lead singer, the group is currently on a Canadian tour and released their first full length album, *Stop Looking Like Music*, last year.

Sander Kleinenberg
Thursday, 25 October at 8pm
Empire Ballroom (WEM)

Holland's Sander Kleinenberg brings his DJing skills to West Ed's Empire Ballroom. Mixing both audio and video during his performance, this fly Dutchman is riding the success of his club hit "This is Not Miami."

Oh Susanna!
Saturday, 27 October at 11pm
Varscona Theatre (10329 83 Avenue)

A game and variety show, the ninth annual season of this Halloween-themed party is upon the Varscona Theatre. Susanna Patchouli stars along with several co-performers all eager to express their playful exasperation with the lead, including wacky magician Blizzard the Wizzard and cunningly named Fringe buskers the Be Arthurs, among others. It also features the *Oh Susanna!* Jug Band, a definite highlight for fans of local jug music. Best of all, if you're financially disadvantaged, you can get a two-dollar discount by wearing a Halloween costume—which should only run you about 20 bucks.

JONN KMECH
Practices safe Social Intercourse



Wintersleep welcomes the *Night Sky*

The Halifax-based quintet may not be eager to discuss their new album, but it's given them radio play, notable producers to work with, and even an international release in Japan

musicpreview

Wintersleep
With Wooden Stars
Sunday, 28 October at 8pm
Starlite Room

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

One has to wonder if Wintersleep's apparent lack of enthusiasm in discussing their new album, *Welcome to the Night Sky*, is due to the overwhelming number of questions they repeatedly get asked by journalists or genuine disinterest in talking about the finished product. It's probably the former—although the soporific attitude associated with the latter would reflect the band name well.

Currently on a cross-Canada tour in support of *Welcome to the Night Sky*, the guys from Halifax only have time to respond to questions in brief, which guitarist/keyboardist Tim D'eon reveals that the band name has gotten more interesting comments beyond people listing unflattering sleepy synonyms back to them.

"This summer, we were playing at the Evolve Festival in Antigonish, Nova Scotia," D'eon writes via email. "I was riding with Brian [Borcherdt] from Holy Fuck and [Mike] Bigelow [formerly of Holy Fuck and new Wintersleep bass player] in Brian's van.

"We were blasting Slayer's 'Reign in Blood' when we were stopped at the gate of the festival and [were] told to go see this lady about getting our artist passes," he continues. "She asked what band we were, and Brian said 'Holy Fuck.' She replied, 'I really hate your band name. I come from a Catholic town, and we ripped down all of your posters.' She looks at me and asks my band's name. I told her and she replies, 'Now that is a beautiful name. You guys must make nice music.' "

Although they make nice music according to a lot of fans and music critics, D'eon doesn't seem to fully share this opinion quite yet. When asked if a hypnotic, singable song like "Dead Letter and the Infinite Yes" could become a single for the album, he seemed doubtful.

"I don't know how well it would do as a single, but I'd be up for releasing any of these songs as a single. The reality of it is that it's very difficult to get a song on the radio, especially since most of our songs don't follow the sort of verse-chorus-verse type of thing they like to play."

> **"[This lady] asked what band we were, and Brian said 'Holy Fuck.' She replied, 'I really hate your band name. I come from a Catholic town, and we ripped down all of your posters.' [...] I told her [our name] and she replies, 'Now that is a beautiful name. You guys must make nice music.'"**
>
> **TIM D'EON**
> WINTERSLEEP GUITARIST/KEYBOARDIST

If the growing amount of airplay that "Weighty Ghost," the first single of the band's new release, is any indication, D'eon is dead wrong. Wintersleep has never before obtained as much radio attention, with both of their previous two untitled albums as they are currently getting with *Welcome to the Night Sky*.

Perhaps the label jump last year from Yarmouth-based Dependent Music to Labwork, a product of the marriage between major label EMI Canada and independent Sonic Unyon is to thank for the renewed interest in Wintersleep as a band. But the move helped the band to gain some recognition in the US by re-releasing their two previous studio efforts.

That doesn't really explain the change of the band's sound from mellow and melancholic to more lively and epic. Perhaps producer Tony Doogan—who's worked with bands like Mogwai and Belle & Sebastian—is the one to praise. It appears the man has some psychic abilities beyond his musical genius.

"It was great working with [Doogan]," D'eon says. "It's nice to have suggestions from someone who knows very little about the band and the music."

Under Doogan's guidance, *Welcome to the Night Sky* was sent across the pond to Doogan's ominously named personal studio to be mixed and prepaired for release.

"Castle of Doom is actually [Doogan's] Studio in Glasgow. He co-owns the place with the guys in Mogwai. It's a nice old townhouse that was converted into a studio."

The album itself was recorded at Halifax's Sonic Temple, but Wintersleep has spent so much time touring that they rarely hang around their hometown. D'eon admits that it's due to lack of time spent in the city that he doesn't pay much attention to Halifax's local music scene, although the entire band loves fellow Halifax band Dog Day.

Maybe it's for the best that Wintersleep keep on trekking, as they now have another opportunity to tread on international waters again. While the band continues to search for American labels, they've caught the attention of a Japanese label. Although D'eon's tight-lipped on the subject—"I probably shouldn't name [it] until it's official," he says—that label will release their albums in Japan.

So while Wintersleep are silent on topics discussing what concepts are behind the new record or what stories shaped its sound, disinterest isn't the reason why. Not only has the band pushed hard to attain recognition beyond Halifax and consequently, Canada, they've managed to develop music that's more accessible to those outside of the hipster crowd but at the same time remains imaginative.



Star power doesn't redeem *Rendition*

filmreview

Rendition
Now Playing
Directed by Gavin Hood
Starring Jake Gyllenhal, Reese Witherspoon, Omar Metwally, and Igal Naor

JEFFREY KLASSEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The title and trailers for *Rendition* are misleading. They present a film about a terror suspect detained without judicial involvement, while the prisoner's American wife is left frantic for answers. But this particular plot may have been the least exceptional part of the film. *Rendition* follows several related storylines at once, exploring multiple themes raised by Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East to varying degrees of success.

Director Gavin Hood, who impressed audiences with the Oscar-winning *Tsotsi* in 2005, attempts to drive at this multifaceted issue but just gets caught up with unnecessary sentimentality. *Rendition* is successful in humanizing the face of Islamic fundamentalism with the passionate interplay of the Egyptians, while the face of American fundamentalism is subsequently reduced to a cartoon of stock characters.

Extraordinary rendition is one of the United States' most controversial security policies: it grants government agencies the right to kidnap terror suspects and deport them to foreign prisons where torture is sometimes used to extract answers. Anwar El-Ibrahim (Omar Metwally) is a chemical engineer with an American green card whose suspected involvement in an Egyptian suicide bombing gets him deported to an Egyptian detention centre.

He's tortured for information under the supervision of Abassi Fawal (Igal Naor), an Egyptian security officer, and Douglas Freeman (Jake Gyllenhal), an American working for the CIA. Anwar's innocence becomes clear early in the film, but the torture continues on orders from the US. Gyllenhal plays the typical conflicted Hollywood hero who must stand up against authority in order to do the right thing. Naor's character Fawal is, thankfully, more complex: he's militant man, seeking to weed Egypt of terrorism that Noar puts heart and a little humour into portraying, painting a realistic picture of a jaded man, a father, and a husband.

A tragic Egyptian love story contrasts the torturous destruction of Anwar's humanity. A romance blossoms between Abassi's daughter Fatima (Zineb Oukach) and a young man named Khalid (Moa Khouas). Fatima and Khalid are perhaps the most well-rounded characters of the movie: Fatima strives to define herself as a young, independent woman, rebelling against her militant father, while Khalid is a troubled youth who rides a motorcycle and practices calligraphy.

Back at home in the US, Anwar's wife (Reese Witherspoon) wades through red tape to find her husband. Regrettably, Witherspoon plays a rather inconsistent character: she's a pregnant, all-American soccer mom; she waddles around and complains how tired she is but still maintains energy to scream at higher government officials and play soccer with her son. However, her so-weak-I'm-strong act quickly wears very thin and adds nothing to the film.

Meryl Streep also plays a small role, but one that barely flexes her acting muscles: she's a stone-cold CIA official in Washington who orders the continuation of Anwar's torture, but the ice never melts, and her role remains static.

For all the star power that *Rendition* offers, one would expect a more unified and focused film. The performances of the Egyptian actors far outshine those of the Americans, whose characters fail to fully engage the audience and suspend the viewer's belief. Had Hood portrayed a more objective and ambiguous outlook in his film, the expressive, interlocking elements of the story could have been fully realized.

culturaobscura

Vulva Original
By Viveros Special Products

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor



MIKE OTTO

When I first heard of Vulva Original, I have to admit that I thought it must have been some form of well-designed hoax. Call me naíve, but I simply don't see a fragrance that smells like the back room of a strip club as having that large of a market. But upon hearing that this was a German product, my thoughts were "of course"—and, almost instantly, I began to see it as credible.

I sent an email to their PR department, requesting a sample of the "precious organic substance" to review for our humble paper, figuring "what's the worst that can happen?" Well, the answer is that I now have a vial of freshly milked vaginal juice sitting on my desk that I treat like anthrax.

Despite the sleek black packaging, there's nothing classy about this product. There's no way to play off *eau de twat* as a legitimate purchase or as a joke product; no, there's a certain piece of yourself that dies the instant you come into possession of this vial of yellow-tinged liquid.

However, despite all this, the worst part about Vulva is that it doesn't smell anything like its namesake, but rather has a smell that ranges somewhere between hamster cage and musty cigar. Granted, I've never smelt a German vagina, but I would assume that they don't reek like the habitat of a small mammal with a nicotine addiction.

At first, I assumed that I was simply using the product wrong, this being my first time using a scented masturbatory aid. However, after rereading the instructions multiple times, I realized that it was their quality control personnel who fucked up, not me.

Despite the press kit assuring me multiple times that this product can intensify my erotic fantasies, my experience was of the flaccid variety. There's simply no way that I could conceivably smell this fragrance and claim to be having good time, let alone an erotic one.

Sadly for me, Vulva was a product best dreamt about but never possessed, as the reality fell incredibly short, much like discovering the truth about Santa Claus. Only instead of still having presents to make things better, all I was left with was a hand coated in hamster piss.

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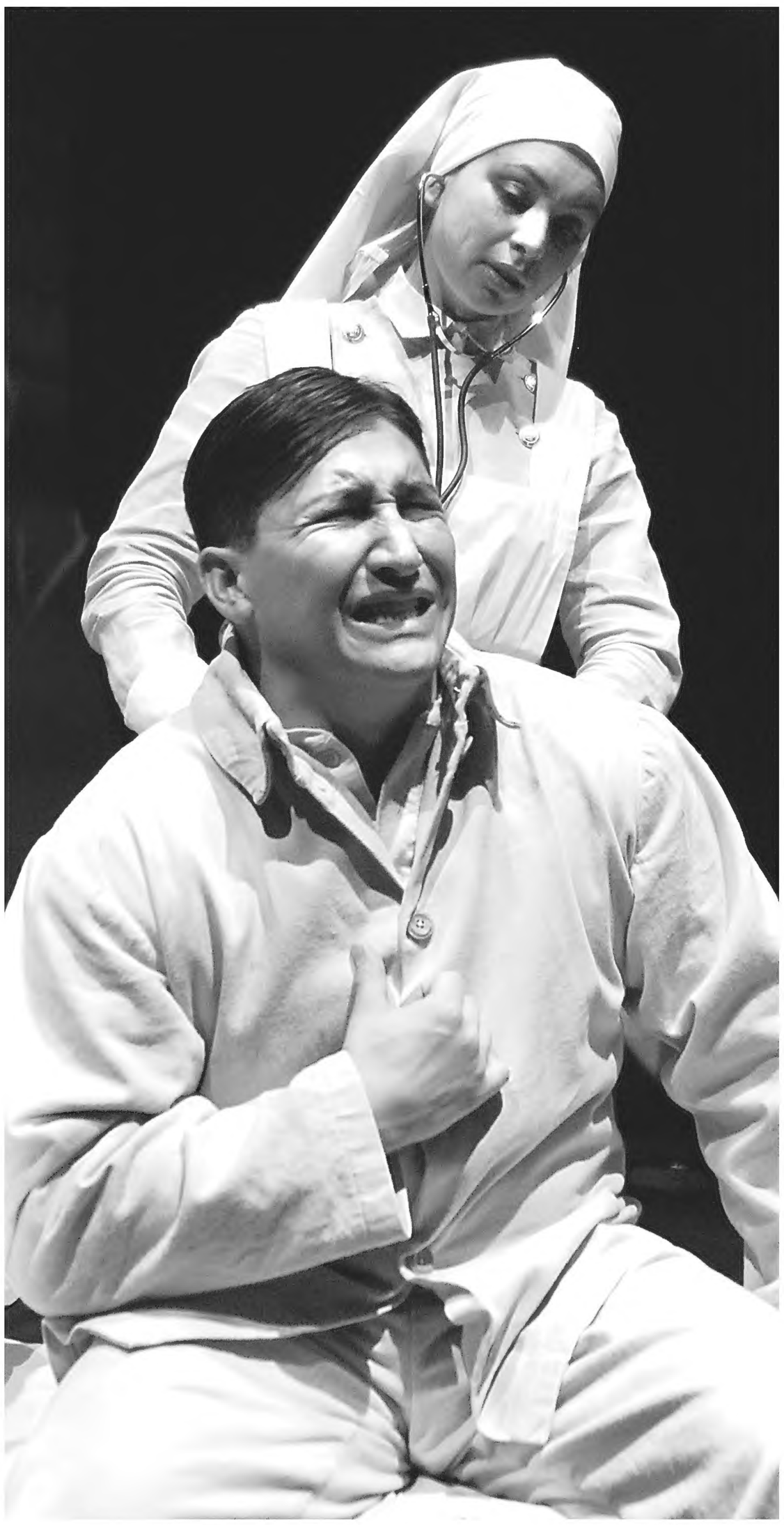
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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

LEST WE FORGET The Citadel's *Vimy* will cover the famous battle right in time for Remembrance Day.



30 days of the right horror fixins

filmreview

30 Days of Night

Now Playing
Directed by David Slade
Starring Josh Harnett, Melissa George, and Danny Huston

KEVIN CHARLTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A bloodthirsty gang of vampire character actors rarely get the opportunity to have work in a group to freely feast upon human flesh, which explains their exitement at hearing that David Slade had begun adapting the graphic novel series *30 Days of Night* to film. Few vampires could pass up on a delicious human feast during the darkest part of the Alaskan winter, where the sun won't rise for almost a month.

With *30 Days of Night*, Slade takes what most people like about a Halloween horror film, throws it in a mixing pot, and spreads it all over a roll of film. When you sit down in a horror movie, you're not expecting Oscar-grade acting and sweeping emotional moments—you're expecting B-grade acting, death and gore, and freaky stuff to jump out at you.

A little bit of ass-kicking never hurt anyone, either, and with *30 Days of Night*, the mix is right on the money and allows the audience members to have a bit of fun while being freaked out of their minds.

The small, secluded Alaskan town of Barrow is thrown into an orgy of vampiric delight as the sun sinks below the horizon for the last time for 30 days. They lay an uninterrupted reign of terror and destruction upon the town, and although most people have already left, the remaining few are left to try and survive the night that will seemingly last for an eternity.

The characters are, as expected, a little one-sided. There's some interesting ideas, from the pot-smoking-and-growing grandmother (Elizabeth Hawthorne), to the senile old guy (Chic Littlewood) who keeps forgetting his wife has been dead for years; ultimately, however, every character remains very thin. Really, all they ever get is the basic motivation that they want to survive the terrible ordeal of swarms of vampires, and thankfully, this lack of character development doesn't really even hinder the film, as *30 Days of Night* prefers to jump right in the action.

The vampires in this flick don't care if you're running around with a wooden stake covered in garlic: the only way to kill them is a well-placed axe straight to the jugular, or good old-fashioned UV light from our good friend the sun. The methods used to kill vampires are quite creative, ranging from death by logging tractor to the ever-so-brutal axe.

The past few years haven't had much in the way of a good horror films, with most of them using extreme gore as a scare tactic for the audience rather than properly written suspense or just downright creepiness. *Saw*, for example, keeps getting worse and worse in this regard. But *30 Days of Night* seems to get a balance of violence and genuine scares, even if it isn't a very intelligent film.

30 Days Of Night aims to keep horror fun and entertaining while still trying to remake the vampire movie into something that will make you wet yourself. This film draws up one survival guide that you'd never want to have to follow.

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

DR. DEANNA WILLIAMSON
HUMAN ECOLOGY 301

Dr. Williamson has been at the University of Alberta both as a student (completing her undergraduate and PhD degrees here) and as a professor. She has now been an academic staff member for 11 years having started teaching here in 1996. Dr. Williamson said that she "contributes to the preparation of beginning level professional human ecologists, whose practice focuses on the enhancement of well-being of individuals and families in their everyday lives." and that she tries to do the best that she can in each key area of her job. Her students feel that she has done exceptionally through learning everyone's name in a fairly large class, generating engaging discussions and creating an overall exceptional environment for learning.

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Futurists enjoy touring, eating

musicpreview

The Russian Futurists
With Gloom Room and Westfalia
Saturday, 27 October at 8pm
The Velvet Underground

KEVIN CHARLTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Few people would pass up on something as wonderful as an electro-pop dance party; fun times require dancable music, after all, and that is exactly what Matthew Adam Hart bottles up and puts onto an album. To be up front about it, The Russian Futurists are here to save any party from dull music.

Finding most of his popularity in Europe and abroad, however, has meant that for much of his musical career, Hart has been touring abroad, even though he hails from Toronto.

"I really like the travelling part of touring. The food and such. I'm really into food, so I really like to eat new things," Hart says. Also, the sightseeing is great; when you get some downtime, it's really fun to do some exploring in whichever country you're in."

From a songwriting standpoint, the Russian Futurists really consist solely of Hart. When going on tour, he has to put together a touring band to give him a hand—which, at the moment contains three additional musicians, whom Hart is all too excited to talk about.

"We recently just added an electronic drummer, which really added a lot of energy to the show," he explains. "It gives us the opportunity to have a lot of freedom to play the songs faster or slower. Having a touring band takes a lot of pressure off of touring by yourself.

> **"I really like the travelling part of touring. The food and such. I'm really into food, so I like to eat new things."**
>
> **MATTHEW ADAM HART**
> RUSSIAN FUTURISTS

"I've generally just been working with people that I've been friends with," he continues. "One of them is my cousin, one I've been friends with for 15 years, and the drummer is a friend of my cousin."

Although he seems eager to play with others, sometimes Hart still goes out on his own from time to time. For him, going solo is usually a matter of convenience, even though he enjoys collaboration—remixing especially.

"In the past year, I've been doing a lot more remixes than I've ever done, and that's been a really good outlet for collaboration. I've been really lucky that people haven't sent me something to remix and said they wanted it to sound like this or sound like that," Hart says.

"Generally, people have let me do my thing. I've never had the experience where I've sent something to someone and they didn't like it. I really like the challenge, so I usually try to put a lot into it."

Although working on others' material seems to come to Hart with ease, finding inspiration and writing his own music can be more difficult. That being the case, he doesn't schedule any specific time for writing; he finds that if it's flowing, it's flowing, and since inspiration can be one of the most difficult things for an artist, he just lets it come to him.

"I find most of my inspirations in my friends and my life. I use the music, especially lyrically, as an outlet for a lot of things that you don't really want to say," he says. "I kind of use it as a journal or a diary; just the regular stuff day-to-day is the subject matter for the songs."



albumreview

Emanuel
Black Earth Tiger
Vagrant Records

SEAN STEELS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Black Earth Tiger, Emanuel's follow up to their debut disc *Soundtrack to a Headrush* is about guilt, alienation, and contemplating the end of, well, everything. The record is a response to the "culture shock" the band experienced after burning themselves out on the road for three years. Coming home, only to find that home wasn't home anymore, they locked themselves in the studio for another year. Depressed yet?

The album is full of heavy, chugging riffs, grisly screams, and chopping percussion. Anthony Brock's drumming is the highlight of the record: it snaps, buckles, and pounds, propelling the rhythm into climactic frenzies. The only downside to their sound is that it's fairly similar to other turn-of-the-century screamo acts.

Even with standard, and at times overly dramatic, post-apocalyptic imagery threatening to conventionalize the disc thematically, these Louisville boys do manage to surprise with some imaginative sounds and orchestration. The sonically turbulent "Whiteflag" and "Whiteflag (Reprise)" make haunting use of tone phasers and feedback to create a barren, lost-in-space feel.

These astral quirks lie underneath the rest of the album, too, but never manage to reach the same exciting, creative crescendo as these two tracks. Other songs like "Phobos" have the same kind of experimental spirit but can't quite bring the concept to yield anything more than playful song intros and outros.

Had these ethereal melodies been explored more thoroughly, the entire record could have constituted a foray into less-travelled and much more interesting musical territory. As it stands, *Black Earth Tiger* rarely bares its fangs.

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MARKET RESEARCH INTERVIEWER

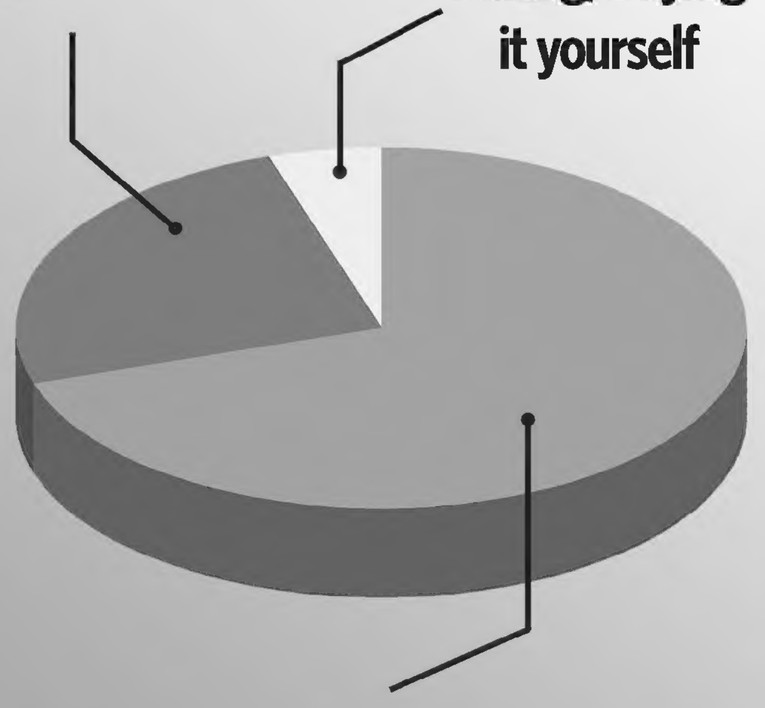
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albumreview

Sondre Lerche

Dan In Real Life *Original Soundtrack*
Virgin Records

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's not a frequent occurrence to review a film's official soundtrack. In most cases, what's there to review? Does the reviewer comment on whether the filmmakers made a good choice in including Sir Mix-a-lot's "Baby Got Back" in a movie about fatal anorexia? Deride the maudlin use of the string section in John Williams' signature orchestration during the scene where little Timmy gets thrown down a well?

Well in this case, the situation is a little different. The original soundtrack for *Dan In Real Life*, Steve Carell's newest comedy, is actually a compilation of eleven new songs by guitarist Sondre Lerche, his cover of Pete Townsend's "Let My Love Open the Door," A Fine Frenzy's version of "Fever," three songs from Lerche's previous albums, and a hidden track of Dane Cook and the cast singing something classy called "Ruthie Pigface Draper."

Seen as a Sondre Lerche album in itself, *Dan In Real Life* is a sunny compilation of upbeat, jazzy string songs accompanied by Lerche's semi-falsetto, particularly the ebullient "To Be Surprised" and the low-key "My Hands Are Shaking." A Fine Frenzy performs a sweet, if somewhat sullen, cover of Peggy Lee's "Fever." And even the hidden track, ("Ruthie Pigface Draper,") is a surprisingly catchy piano-rock ditty about a woman with certain attractive, pig-like qualities.

If the film is anywhere near as warm, joyful, and addictive as Sondre Lerche's soundtrack is, Steve Carell just might have another blockbuster on his hands.



albumreview

The Kin

Rise and Fall
Rykodisc

SEAN STEELS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Those closely following the small corner of the music industry that's made up of airy, post-pop electronica/folk fusion have been impatiently awaiting The Kin's new record. The Australian brother duo let fly 14 tunes of sappy introspection on their newest release, *Rise and Fall*.

Their fourth studio album is full of the same romantic heft and serene orchestration that has endeared them to scenesters at large since their 2001 debut on the New York bar scene. Subtle but intricate guitar work, somber inflections of ghostly reverb, and arcing vocal melodies make up the album's successful artistic flourishes. The brothers weave their rich voices into dulcet—but masculine—harmonies, and these down-to-earth, authentic vocal stylings paint an impression of humble, folkie musicians, who want nothing more than to play their tunes to whomever will listen.

Despite *Rise and Fall*'s stylistic consistency, it runs the danger of being overly conventional. The brothers flit through the already well travelled territory of clichéd love songs; their barely-above-average poetry just isn't enough to distinguish them from other pop groups playing the same tired chord patterns. In fact, this general atmosphere of mediocrity pervades the album. The content and expression feels tentative and excessively cautious, especially for a band with an upswing in popularity spurring on their fourth release.

The Kin have said they prefer to let their music be a blank canvas onto which others can create what they will, but their lack of statement and nagging ambiguity are holding back their songs. Nothing sounds distinctly bad, but there's nothing groundbreaking or innovative to speak of either. Chalk one up in the precisely satisfactory release column.



albumreview

Brian Byrne

Tailor Made
Kindling Music

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Who among us hasn't taken a road trip with music blasting and prairie roads stretching for miles ahead? Brian Byrne is now on a musical journey of his own: the former lead singer for the rock group I Mother Earth has now released his second solo album, *Tailor Made*. Departing from I Mother Earth's rock style, Byrne is now embracing country music, a style he grew up listening to. But rock feel isn't completely absent from *Tailor Made*: he describes his style as "a mix of outlaw country and dirty southern rock."

"Tailor Made" links the two genres nicely—it's a catchy song that sounds like something Lonestar and Def Leppard might create if they ever jumped into a van and drove across the Prairies together. "Easy Come" is a laid-back, mid-tempo piece that could be played in a country bar somewhere while locals two-step on the small, wooden dance floor. "Crazy" explodes with a fun and fast pace, with Byrne singing lyrics like "I know I'm drunker than I should be / But you just go straight to my head."

Despite its effective genre-melding, stylistic variety is definitely present in this album. Some songs, such as "Colder Than The Lake," hearken explicitly to Byrne's rock past; the traditional country melodies of "The One, The Only (King of Late Night)" follow immediately, creating a pleasing contrast of genres. "Love You More," a slow country ballad, changes the pace quite effectively following those two faster tunes.

Byrne expresses a sweet and honest love in this piece; this song concludes the album—and Byrne's musical journey—on a delightful note.



albumreview

Athlete

Beyond the Neighbourhood
Parlophone

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Perhaps even the savviest of music fans here in Canada have never heard of Athlete, but apparently, these guys enjoy some popularity in the UK. After hearing *Beyond the Neighbourhood*, it seems baffling that Athlete hasn't gained the same international popularity as other UK bands like Snow Patrol and Coldplay.

That's not to say that they share that sound—although all three have similar approaches to songwriting—but they're all good bands, and they could be better if only they would move beyond their established styles.

Despite having produced *Beyond the Neighbourhood* by themselves, it sounds like it was done by a professional. The opening track, "In Between 2 States," is an instrumental that sounds like U2 gone electronica, and "Airport Disco" is a futuristic dream in which travel by plane has been banned, bur instead of airports being demolished, airports are converted into nightclubs.

Sadly, this song isn't nearly as intriguing as its concept, hindered by a repetitive pattern, but its intro and ending are worth listening to.

With the exception of the first track, no song on this record is enticing from beginning to end. "It's Not Your Fault" is fairly tedious until its last minute, where vocalist Joel Pott energetically belts out "Oh! My! God!" over "What the hell just happened here?" My thoughts exactly—the song just got ten times better!

The highlight of *Beyond the Neighbourhood* is "The Outsiders," containing an ending that mixes piano, violin, claps, and scratchy effects almost redeems the whole album. The irony of this self-produced record's professional sound, however, becomes apparent when the catchy song hooks are overshadowed by monotonous and predictable song structures, as well as Pott's vocals, which for the most part stay within their comfort zones and rarely venture out to try something new.

In other words: over-produced.

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No nationals for silver-medal rugby team



FILE PHOTO: SHAUN MOTT

I'M OPEN, I'M OPEN! The Pandas (dark) beat UVic, but lost Canada West gold to Lethbridge last weekend in Victoria.

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

It's not often that a team that suffers only one defeat in their entire season gets shut out from the national finals, but such is the case for the U of A's women's rugby team.

The Pandas (3-0-0) lost only one game in their two-tournament season—the Canada West gold-medal match this Sunday against Lethbridge—but they'll miss out on nationals. After sweeping the conference seeding tournament at home earlier this year, Alberta ran all over hosts Victoria on Friday to put them in the gold-medal game, which they lost 3–0. Canada West only gets one spot at the rugby championships.

"We're obviously disappointed in the final result," Pandas head coach Matt Parrish said.

This is only the second time in team history—but the second in a row—that the Pandas have failed to make it to nationals. That said, they're happy with their silver medal, a better result than last year's third-place finish.

"There is the tradition there with the Pandas of success, and I think obviously [the players] were disappointed, but I don't think they were as disappointed as last year, just because they played well this weekend and it wasn't for lack of effort, or heart," Parrish said. "Some things just didn't come off, and those things happen in every sport."

After their previous success this season, the Canada West results came as a surprise to the Pandas.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't expecting to win," Parrish said. "I didn't expect it to be anything but a close game, but I thought we had a chance to win it."

Canada West gold used to be the norm for Alberta, who won the conference from the school's first year in the sport in 1999/00, to the 2005/2006 season. But Parrish sees the end of that dynasty as a good thing for the sport overall.

"I think what's happened is that CIS—and also in general women's rugby—has gotten better," he said. "I also think the quality of coaches in CIS has gotten better, so the standard's come up."

The gold-medal game was an unusually low-scoring affair, with the only points coming on a penalty from last year's CIS and Canada West Player of the Year Ashley Patzer. Parrish explained the low-offence game by saying that he and Lethbridge coach Neil Langevin's strategies essentially cancelled each other out.

"We managed to nullify each other, and we just didn't quite know how to respond to it," he said. "Our plan A didn't work, and we didn't respond well. That's not a reflection on the players; it's just a reflection on us as coaches.

"We played well, but Lethbridge played a little better than us."

Alberta still emerged from the weekend with a slate of awards. Parrish was named Canada West Coach of the Year, Annika Eriksson was declared tournament MVP, and six Pandas were named to the conference All-Star team. Parrish wants his players to appreciate the honours, rather than dwell on the end of the season.

"I hope the players take it as a little bit of acknowledgment of their hard work and play," he said. "They were initially just disappointed, and just like, 'Oh, okay,' but I would hope that when they actually think about it in a month or so they sort of go, 'Well, it was nice to get recognized.'"

Parrish is already looking ahead to next season. First of all, because Lethbridge is hosting, Canada West will get two spots, but the Pandas will also be returning the majority of their players.

"We can build off things rather than starting again, which will be nice."

Preseason prep for Basketbears

Alberta will practice with their new players at the Golden Bear Invitational

BEN CARTER
Sports Staff

For a team with high expectations this season, a visit from three top-flight Ontario programs should go a long way in determining the potential of this Bears basketball squad. In their final games before beginning their Canada West season, the Bears host the Waterloo Warriors, York Lions, and Ottawa Gee Gees in this weekend's Golden Bear Invitational tournament.

The event follows a weekend away in Victoria, where Alberta beat UVic and Brandon but lost to the defending national champions Carleton. Bears coach Don Horwood is awaiting the challenge that this weekend's opponents can pose for his team.

"We need to play as good teams as possible so we get an idea of exactly how good we are and what we need to do to improve," he said. "All three of these teams are going to be a big test, but we feel Ottawa on Saturday will be the biggest test for us this weekend."

The Gee Gees are currently ranked fourth in the country, while Waterloo and York have been successful for a number of seasons. The U of O was a national semi-finalist last season, eventually losing to Carleton.

"They worked hard; they defended hard; I was very pleasantly surprised with our effort last weekend. We think we have the whole package."

DON HORWOOD
BEARS HEAD COACH

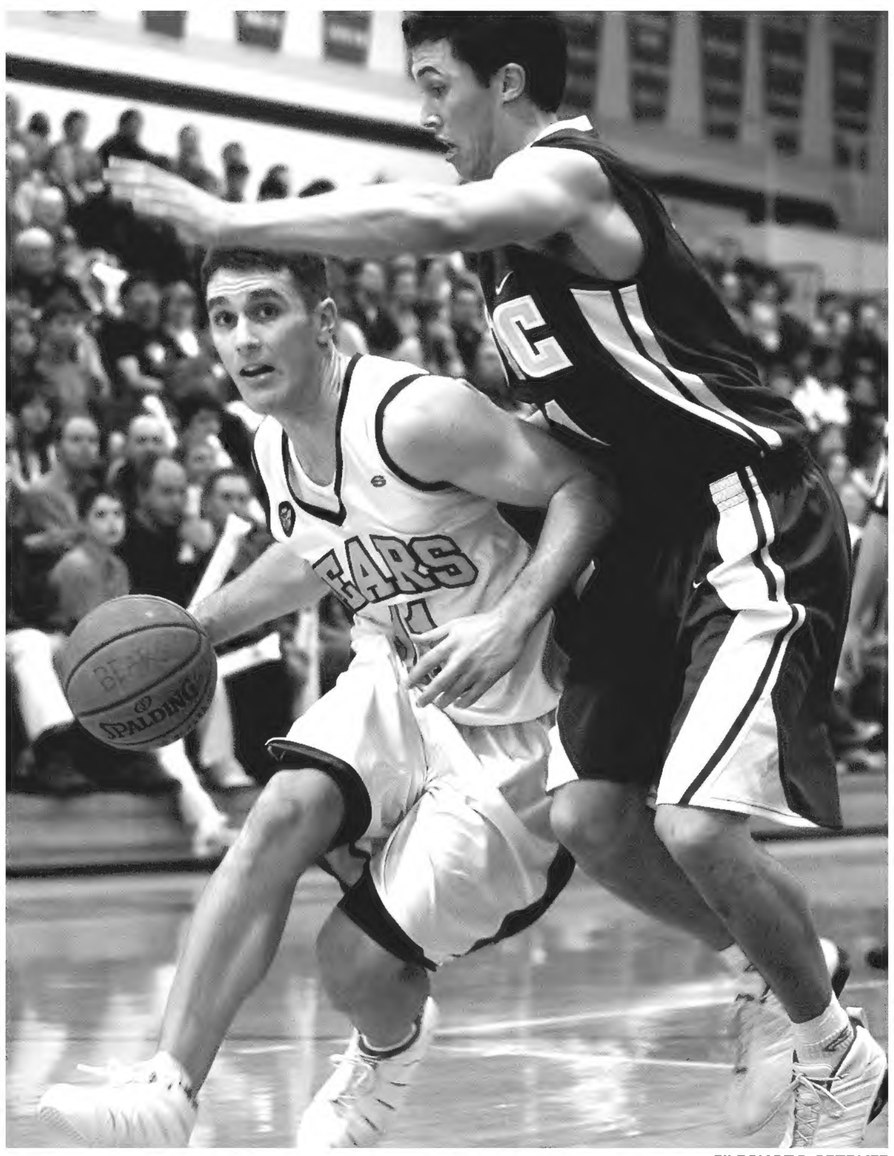
Alberta only graduated two players last season, but those two players—Tyson Jones and Scott Gordon—were a large part of the Bears team, and their roles need to be filled. So far, though, Horwood is seeing a lot of encouraging signs from his young team. The Bears went 2–1 in last weekend's preseason tournament, and Horwood was greatly enthused by what he saw from his team.

"Alex [Steele] and CG [Morrison] were consistently our best players all game, [and] Andrew Parker had an outstanding, monster game on Sunday," he said.

"The guys surprised me. They worked hard; they defended hard; I was very pleasantly surprised with our effort last weekend. We think we have the whole package."

At this point in the pre-season, Horwood is more concerned with how his team plays and responds to general game situations and competition, rather than what the opposition shows them. But just because they're not looking out for particulars doesn't mean the Bears won't be taking something away from this weekend's games.

"Part of playing these games is learning how to play against different styles," he explained. "It's a matter of playing different teams and different styles and us having to adjust to those styles. That's what we try to do in the pre-season is to get used to that kind of basketball."



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

YOU MUST BE THIS TALL ... The U of A will get practice with top CIS teams.

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 14 ◆ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ◆ www.thegatewayonline.ca ◆ thursday, 25 october, 2007

Tuition numbers crunched

StatsCan releases data on national tuition fees

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Tuition fees in Alberta are now $430 above the national average, according to Statistics Canada's annual report.

The results, released 18 October, shows that for the 2007/08 academic year, Canadian full-time undergraduate students will on average pay 2.8 per cent more in tuition fees than they did for the previous year. Alberta's tuition fees rose by 4.6 per cent.

According to Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky, Alberta's increase is indicative of the level of investment that the provincial government is putting into postsecondary education.

"Albertan learners have seen tuition rises that have drastically outpaced the national average, [and] the focus on reducing barriers of access to learners has not been recognized by the provincial government as it has been by other jurisdictions," he said. "As a result, we are falling behind our peers."

However, U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein questioned the value of comparing tuition fees to a national average.

"I think the average is a misleading number," Amhrein said. He noted that while Quebec is renowned for having the lowest tuition levels in the country, costs such as the differential fee levied to non-Quebec Canadian students studying in that province make comparing tuition levels up front problematic.

However, Zach Churchill, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), said that having different provinces charge different tuition fees affects students' mobility within the country.

Churchill stressed "the importance of the federal government and the provincial government taking a leadership role in assuring that we have an affordable and accessible postsecondary system in this country that is mobile [and] that allows students to study wherever they want."

Amrhein pointed out that since most of the tuition levels are fairly tightly clustered around the national average, he doubts lack of student mobility can be directly linked to tuition fees.

"There's not a lot of student mobility across the provinces to begin with relative to what you would find in say the US or within the European community," Amrhein acknowledged.

PLEASE SEE **STATSCAN** ◆ PAGE 5



MIKE OTTO

THE EMPEROR'S OLD CLOTHES A donation of over 700 pieces has allowed for an exhibition of 18th-century Chinese garments. Turn to page 4 for the story.

Special Collections library pleases all of the senses

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Writer

Not all early 20th century presses shied away from publishing erotic reads, as shown in the exhibit Golden Cockerel's Polite Erotica: A Legacy of Endurance and Distinction, now being featured at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

The exhibit runs from October 2007 until January 2008 and features a collection of 60 books. According to Robert Desmarais, assistant special collections librarian, what stands out about the Golden Cockerel press was its ability to add a sensual touch to each of its publications.

"It was a luxurious press in many respects because they produced books that in many cases had no considerations for cost. They put in all the resources that they felt were needed to have a book that appealed to the senses," Desmarais explained.

Not all the works would be considered shocking by today's standards, but the addition of naked images created quite the scandal among book collectors at the time they were published. This was particularly prominent in the religious works in which stories were enhanced erotically. Understandably, there were objections to depicting religious figures in such a fashion.

The Golden Cockerel Press published its first book in 1921, and went on to print over 200 books before closing in 1961. What began as an adventure in publishing became one of the greatest private presses in Britain. Renowned and condemned for its racy images, the Cockerel wisely chose to identify itself as a printer, rather than a publisher.

The published pieces included literary classics and books on travel or exploration—works like John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and Geoffery Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, all of which are considered key books in the collection.

As the books' popularity spread—chiefly through word of mouth—collecting the erotic books became a pursuit of prestige, explained Desmarais.

"The press treated the publications as literary events, and they were celebrated in the media," Desmarais said. "Book collectors wanted to own those works that were particularly loved by the press."

With careful consideration on the part of the press, only 500 copies of each book were published. This made owning a copy that much more prestigious. According to Desmarais, the books were thought of as artifacts: collectors weren't only interested in content, they also wanted "an attractive binding, beautiful paper, and presentation—illustrations, type set, font choice, and layout."

The books have managed to retain this value over the ages: earlier this year, a complete collection was sold for $397 000 US.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

GROWN-UP PICTURE BOOK Library exhibit includes many eye-raising items.

Although the press closed its doors over 40 years ago, its publications have not lost their relevance. As Desmarais explained, there's something unique about reading that no other experience can match.

"We've become a more technology-based society, and people want to get back to material things—things that they can touch, feel, and smell. The exhibit is open to everyone and is absolutely worth a visit."

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A green awakening

Sustainable growth is all the rage. Find out how a growing U of A is attempting to please the planet.

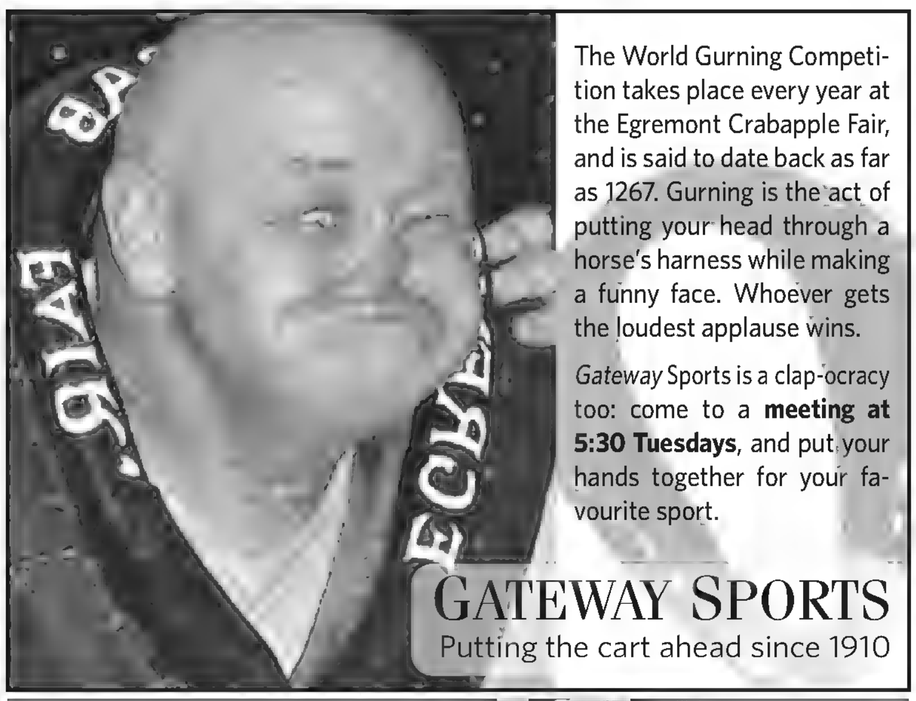
FEATURE, PAGE 12-13



A cold hibernation

Halifax's Wintersleep attempt to dodge questions about their third album, *Welcome to the Night Sky.*

A&E, PAGE 14



The World Gurning Competition takes place every year at the Egremont Crabapple Fair, and is said to date back as far as 1267. Gurning is the act of putting your head through a horse's harness while making a funny face. Whoever gets the loudest applause wins.

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Cross about lacrosse lockout

NLL can't afford to lose a season, and it will be the owners' fault that they will



NICK FROST

Sports Commentary

When the NHL made the decision to cancel the 2004/05 season after a lengthy and well-publicized lockout between team owners and the NHLPA over a new Collective Bargaining Agreement, fans of the game could at least be sure of one thing: the league would come back and be fully functional at some point. However, the same can't be said for fans of the National Lacrosse League (NLL), who may very well have seen the nail driven into their proverbial coffin after league owners decided to cancel the 2007/08 season over their failure to reach a new CBA with the players.

It seemed in the past few years as though the NLL was developing into a stronger and more respectable league after suffering through nearly a decade of failed expansion into large markets like Anaheim, Ottawa, and Vancouver, as well as a lack of exposure to both Canadian and American audiences. As of last season, they were maintaining a strong 13-team base—with plans to expand into Boston in 2008 and other North American markets further down the road—and had TV deals in both Canada and the US solidified. It looked like they were well on the way to shaking off the reputation of being a fringe league.

Now, the league has gone and jeopardized its current fanbase by taking away their ability to observe the product, and while that might not hinder one of the "big four" sports leagues to any great extent, the NLL isn't even close to big—their fanbase is maybe one-third the size of the NHL's. There's no eloquent way of putting this: everyone involved in this situation has completely fucked things up.

As is the case with any cancellation, lockout, or strike in professional sports, the blame lies on both sides of the fence. The brunt of it in this situation, though, has to be placed on the owners. Their main negotiation tactic appears to be guilting the players into giving in.

It seems like the owners are happier sitting in the corner and pouting, while the league loses what little revenue it was generating, than actually trying to work with the players.

The owners left the players with a "take it or leave it" deadline two and a half months before the season was scheduled to commence, leaving no doors open for possible negotiations anytime soon with the players, who seemed eager to try and hash out a deal. It seems like the owners are happier sitting in the corner and pouting, while the league loses what little revenue it was generating rather than actually trying to work with the players.

That said, the Professional Lacrosse Players' Association (PLPA) hasn't exactly done the finest job of handling this mess either. Rather than putting the decision to accept or reject the owners' proposal in the hands of all players represented by the PLPA—thus giving them a voice in the matter—the decision was made solely by player representatives from each team. While the player reps are generally more educated on the business side of the game, some players—like Rochester Knighthawks defender Luke Forget, who spoke on the matter in a recent interview with the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*—believe that if all players had been given a vote, the CBA would have been passed and the season would have gone ahead.

Aside from the fact that, as a sports fan, the whole idea of a season cancellation in any sports league annoys me, this one infuriates me even more because of how stupid and pointless it is. NLL players don't make very much money to begin with; in fact, the average current player salary amounts to $14 500, which for some of the players is as much as they make at their second jobs outside of the NLL just to earn a decent living. I understand that most of these guys have families that they need to support, but do they really think that sacrificing an entire season's worth of money to likely end up making a few thousand more is really going to amount to any significant benefit? Most of them could probably make slightly higher dollar figures working outside of the pro-lacrosse world altogether.

As for the owners, to take such a lax position on an issue involving financial stability and a league that can barely stand on its own two feet is just irresponsible. In this case, for the greater good of the NLL, both sides need to sit back down at the table later tonight, stop being stubborn and childish, and just get this thing done so that the 2007/08 season can be revived. Otherwise, the league may suffer an untimely demise.



FILE PHOTO: MONICA LEON-QUINTERO

GET THE LOWDOWN Emily Bolduc (right) and her Pandas teammates took on Waterloo on Friday night to headline the first night of Pandas Hoopfest. Alberta won 74–64 that night, and also defeated teams from Bishop's and Concordia.



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FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

NOW PICTURE THIS WITH TREES The Bears and Pandas have been practicing up for the CIS qualifier meet at Hawrelak.

Memorial meet matters to U of A

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

As they run through the trees in Hawrelak Park this weekend for the Stewart Memorial Cup, the U of A's cross-country athletes will have dual motivation to do their best. Not only is it the selection meet for the national championships, but it's also in memory of two Alberta cross-country athletes.

Former Golden Bear Brian Stewart, and his brother Gerry, who competed at U of C, died in a 2003 mountaineering accident. The Stewart Cup has been run every year since in their honour, alternating between the two schools. Because of that connection, it's always a special event on the U of A cross-country schedule, even though the current athletes will likely never have met the brothers.

"They know there's something special about the Stewart Cup," head cross-country coach Georgette Reed said. "It's an honour to be a member of the program and the legacy that these athletes have added to the program.

"Every athlete on the team wants to run in the Stewart Cup. Whether they've made the travelling squad before or not, if they've come and worked hard in practice, we'll put every athlete in to run."

This year, the event has more pragmatic importance as well. Placement this weekend will determine who the Bears and Pandas send to CIS nationals two weeks from now in Victoria.

> **"Every athlete on the team wants to run in the Stewart Cup."**
>
> **GEORGETTE REED**
> ALBERTA HEAD COACH

That's where Alberta was last weekend, and Reed said that the results were encouraging. She has high hopes for both her teams in terms of results—the Pandas in particular. They were ranked tenth nationally, and managed to beat the fourth-ranked UVic women.

Reed is enthusiastic about how her athletes have been performing so far this year. Both the men's and women's teams are young—none of them have been with the U of A more than two years—but she sees that as a benefit and is happy with their progress so far.

"We're getting results from our teams right now that we didn't really expect," Reed said. "They're doing better than what we had planned, so we're looking at definitely having some positive results this year, and then it's just going to get better and better in the next couple of years as they get more and more experienced.

"With all these guys being at most two years with the program, we've got a different attitude. It's fresher; it's more focused; it's really team-oriented. I'm really pleased with that, and I think the sky's the limit with this program."

On Alberta's side will be the fact that they know the terrain very well. They train at Hawrelak Park regularly, and know what to expect from the route.

"We know the trails at Hawrelak Park, and we run them, and so being able to plan and put together a course that's going to be challenging and competitive could be taken as a home-field advantage," Reed said.

But she emphasized that familiarity with the course was just one part of the equation.

"It's mostly just going out there and running hard, and whether it's a trail you've run 100 times or you're running it for the first time, you're still attacking it by sticking with your race plan and doing what you have to do to get ahead of your competitors."

The Bears and Pandas will try to do just that this Saturday at Hawrelak Park. The race begins at 10am.

SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

End of the line for football Bears

Well, that's the season for the Golden Bears football team (2-6). The Green and Gold, like their professional colour counterparts, lost another game on the weekend. And though the Esks are still (slightly) in the running for the post-season, the Bears' 28-13 home loss to second-place Saskatchewan (5-2) in their last game of the year last weekend was the final nail in their playoff coffin.

Probably the biggest highlight for Alberta from Saturday's game was Tendayi Lozzy's career-high 51-yard touchdown run in the second-half. The Bears were laid low by Huskies quarterback Laurence Nixon, who completed 33 passes for 342 yards.

That bus back home'll be a downer

They started the season with a pair of losses, but the Bears hockey team (4-1-1) are back on the winning wagon. The Lethbridge players were hanging their horns on the long ride home after the Bears beat them 8-2 on Friday and 8-3 on Saturday. Alberta scored four power-play goals on both nights.

High-scoring lines for Pandas

It was a bad weekend for skating Lethbridgians of both genders. Surprising no one, the Pandas hockey team swept another weekend, beating the 'Horns 7-1 on Friday and 4-1 on Saturday in Lethbridge. The Pandas, ever democratic, spread scoring around the team, though Jen Newton and Miranda Miller each scored two goals on Friday.

Pandas celebrate Hoopfest

The basketball Pandas got some good experience this weekend, hosting teams from across the country for Hoopfest, not to be confused with the much beerier Octoberfest. The Pandas—reigning CIS silver-medallists—defeated Waterloo, Bishop's, and Concordia to sweep the tourney.

Alberta saw solid efforts from a number of their returning players, including high-scorers Kristin Jarock, Ashley Wigg, Katie Barrett, Trish Ariss. Newcomer Caitlin Stiksma also put on an impressive show.

At least they're better than the Oil

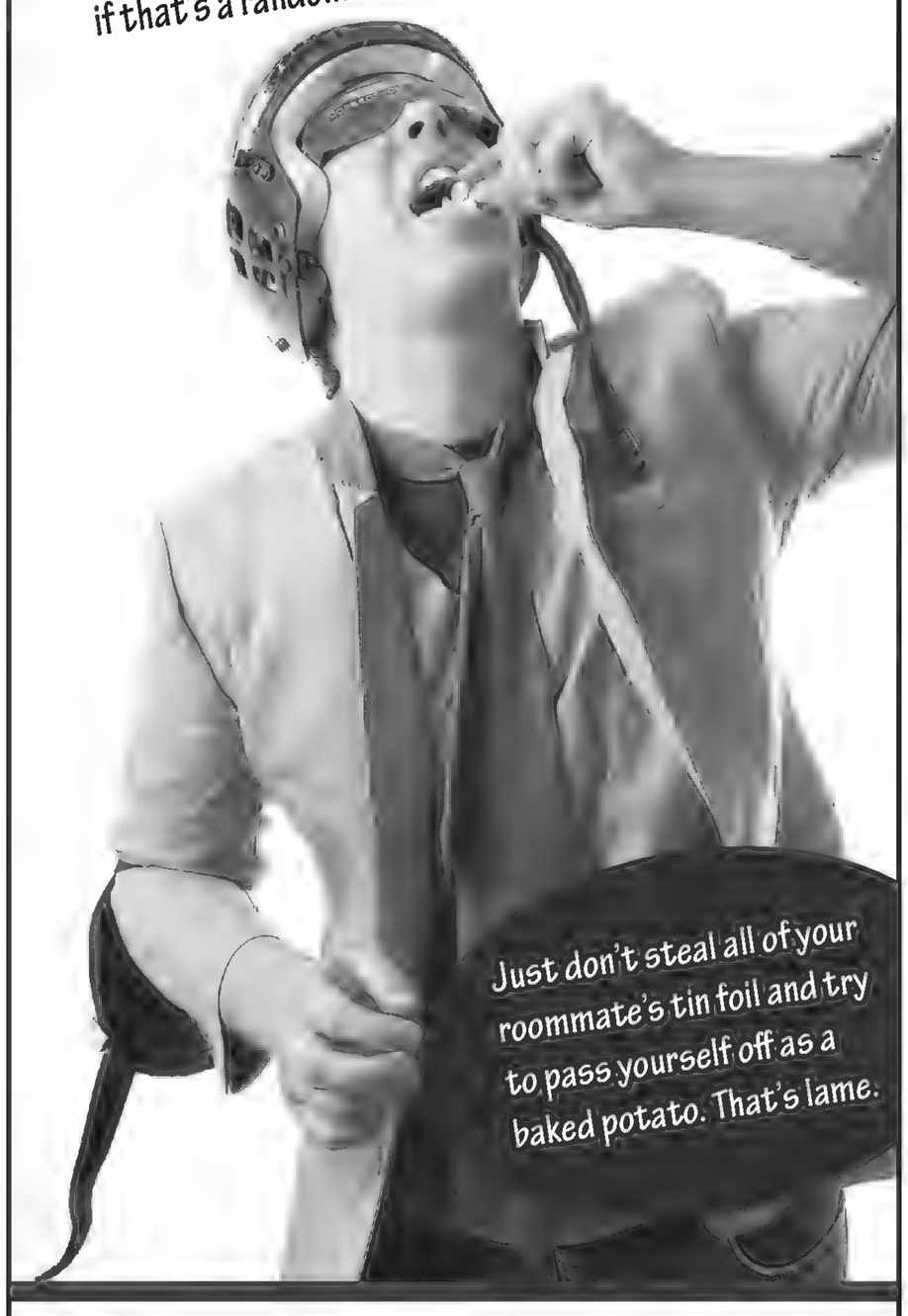
Another team that finished their season this past weekend is the field hockey Pandas, but they did it on a high note. Alberta, who finish the year placed third in Canada West and won't be advancing to CIS nationals, took out the conference-leading UBC Thunderbirds 2-0. Of course, since the Canada West standings had already been determined before the game, the 'Birds were using the match to give younger players some time, but it was still an accomplishment, not to mention a way to bring the Pandas season full-circle. They opened the year with a win against UBC as well.

Awards were handed out to Alberta this weekend as well: both Erin Mason and Jennifer Zwicker were named Canada West All-Stars, and Zwicker got the conference nomination for the Gail Wilson Award, a CIS prize given to the outstanding community contributor.

Shirts and skins

True story: Natalie was given a free pink lacy tanktop last night, only to find that she already owns a matching bra. She's wearing them both today and looks pretty.

Halloween is all about dressing up like a moron & getting free candy. That's why on 31 October—that's next Wednesday—we'll be giving away some sugary treats! You've got to be in costume though, so come on up to the Gateway office in 3-04 SUB between 2–10pm dressed as whatever you feel like being, even if that's a random assemblage of household items.



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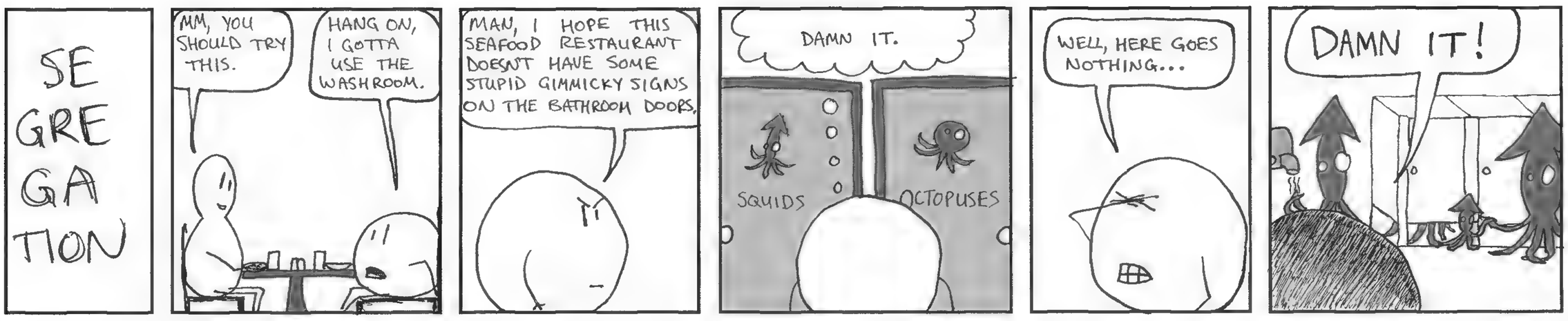
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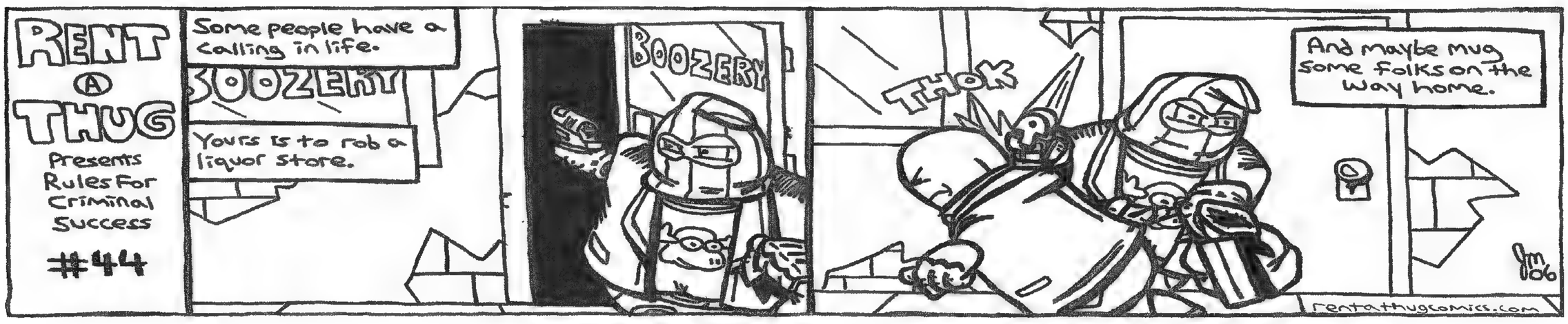
EWE OF A by Norman Lau



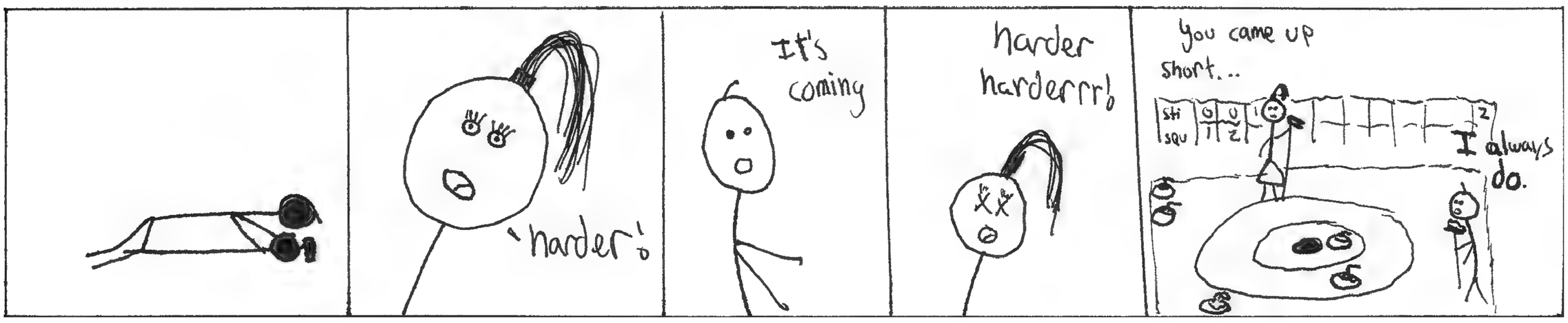
SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood and Vishaal Rajani



RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



STICKMAN by Jonn Gagnon



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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

"Then it is decided," the Chief Minister called out to the sparsely-populated chamber. "I now call an end to this meeting of the New Delhi Municipal Council. We shall meet again next-"

He was cut off by the sound of the chamber doors bursting open. "WAIT!" cried out the wild-eyed man who had appeared in the doorway. His clothes were torn and stained, his body hunched over severely as a result of malnutrition.

"Who is this man?" thundered the Minister as he rose, motioning for the stranger to be removed from the meeting.

"I've come from the future to warn you of a terrible mistake that will be made this night. In my time, civilization has collapsed due to New Delhi's decision to hunt roving monkeys with larger, fiercer monkeys..."

"But..."

"Quiet, you fool! What I tell you is of all importance. The larger monkeys eventually chase out the smaller, but then quickly turn on their human trainers."

"That may well be-"

"Yes, I know. You deal with the new, larger simians with genetically-ennanced bears. But the bears will go out of control. So you move to emotionally-abused tigers. And then highly-paid mercenaries. And then..."

Four hours later..

"... Grand Emperor Travolta will eventually be attacked by a group of Ramones tribute artists. The collapse of his empire will flood the world with black market vol eyballs, causing great unrest in the United Commonwealth of Chevrolet, which has seen increased terrorist attacks since gold standard collapsed after the joint Israel-Peruvian invasion of New New England."

Finally, the Chief Minister cut in. "This is a very terrifying, Sir. But I'm afraid that you're in the wrong meeting. This is the Transportation and Civic services vote."

The wild-eyed stranger paused for a moment. "On the call to segregate bus lanes within the New Delhi core?" The council members who were still awake nodded.

"Well, in that case..WAIT! I've come from the future to warn you of a terrible mistake that will be made this night."


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Suite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Adam Gaumont
e c@gateway ua berta ca | 492 5168

MANAGING EDITOR Paul Owen
managing@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6654

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Natalie Climenhaga
news@gateway ua berta ca | 492 7308

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Ryan Heise
deputynews@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6664

OPINION EDITOR Conal Pierse
opinion@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6661

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Paul Blinov
entertainment@gateway ua berta ca | 492 7052

SPORTS EDITOR Robin Collum
sports@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6652

PHOTO EDITOR Mike Otto
photo@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6648

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Mike Kendrick
production@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6663

ONLINE COORDINATOR Victor Vargas
online@gateway ua berta ca

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith
biz@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6669

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Cziolek
sales@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6700

AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Larissa Gilchrist
design@gateway ua berta ca | 492 6647

CIRCULATION PAL Megan Cleaveley
CIRCULATION PAL Kelsey Tanasiuk
circulation@gateway ua berta ca

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contributors

Kristen Gorak, Jennifer Huygen, Cody Icero, Catherine Scott, Norman Lau, Nadya Bauken, Nick Frost, Ben Carter, Kristina De Guzman, Kevin Charlton, Sean Steeves, Elizabeth Jeffrey, Klassen, John Kmech, Maria Kotoyech, Krystina Szatyck, Andry Chernetsky, Lauren Steglitz, Ryan Snippet, Monica Leon-Quintero, Peter Yee, Shaun Mott, Scott Lima, Paul Knoechel, Matt Isac, Brian Gould, Chris Krause, Norman Lau, Ross Lockwood, Shaan Rajan, Jeff Martin, Jeff Gagnon, Katnryn Dutchak

Gulu Walk reaches out to Ugandan youth

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

Hundreds of Edmontonians donned their walking shoes on Saturday and took to the streets to show support for the plight of over 1.8 million people affected by civil war and violence in the African nation of Uganda.

The third annual GuluWalk Edmonton kicked off at Churchill Square on 20 October with a 5km or 12.5km walk. This global event was designed to raise awareness about the humanitarian situation in Northern Uganda, particularly the problem of "night commuters."

Night commuters are children aged approximately 7 to 18 who walk upwards of 12km every night from their rural villages into neighbouring cities in order to avoid abduction by the notorious rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Since the early 1980s, the LRA and the Ugandan government have been embroiled in Africa's longest-running civil war.

According to Andy Knight, a professor of international relations at the University of Alberta and a governor of the International Development Research Centre, the Gulu Walk is a step in the right direction for bringing attention to this problem.

"Events like the Gulu Walk focus attention on the plight of Uganda's most vulnerable citizens, namely the Acholi children in northern Uganda, who have suffered for much too long at the hands of fanatics and war criminals," Knight explained. "[T]he Gulu Walk should also stir us to act to help bring an end to this unnecessary violence."

Jamil Jivraj, a second-year science student at Concordia University College, and Lillian Du, a second-year science student at the U of A, have co-chaired the Edmonton Gulu Walk since its inception.

Jivraj spent six weeks last summer working at an HIV/AIDS clinic in Uganda's capital, Kampala.

"In Africa, I was able to share what Gulu Walk is and the experiences that I've had co-chairing it with Lillian with the adolescents at the HIV/AIDS clinics," Jivraj said. "They were just completely overwhelmed with gratitude that people with computers and people with Internet and fancy clothes are bothering to take time out of the lives and share in their suffering."

Gulu Walk Day Edmonton is a subsidiary of the national Gulu Walk movement, which began in Toronto during spring of 2005. According to Adrian Bradbury, one of the co-founders of the Gulu Walk concept, events across the country have played a major role in influencing foreign and domestic policy.

"Any type of support that we've had, I think, has played a big role in why Canada now is the lead founder of the peace process in Northern Uganda," Bradbury said.

In October 2006, Gulu Walk Day became a global initiative, with over 30 000 people walking in 82 cities around the world. The event raised over $500 000, which has gone towards funding Ugandan health, education, and cultural programs. The outlook for the 2007 walk is expected to surpass these results and has grown to include celebrity endorsement from the likes of Steve Nash and Sarah McLachlan.



RYAN SHIPPELT
WALKING WITH REASON Edmontonians raise awareness of Ugandan issues.

Currently, peace talks are underway in Uganda between the government and rebels, though Jivraj and Du preach a cautious optimism.

"Things have definitely been getting better," Jivraj said. "[But ...] almost 80 per cent of the entire Acholi tribe are living in internally displaced persons camps right now, [and] it'll be impossible for them to reclaim the lives they once had."

According to Knight, real improvement needs to be made on the basis of justice and transparency through international organizations.

"The future of Uganda can be bright if the perpetrators of the violence are put on trial and be made to account for their actions, [which include] war crimes, crimes against humanity, mass rape, abductions, etc," he explained.

Bradbury agreed with Knight and stressed the need for humanitarian action through increased international awareness.

"When you label something genocide, when there's oil involved, [...] I think international actors pay more attention to it; the media pay more attention to it," Bradbury explained.

"To use a Romeo Dallaire quote, 'A lot of times, governments won't act when it's just people,' and I think in Uganda, it's just people."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Mike Otto

New Delhi, India is under attack by Rhesus monkeys, which killed the city's deputy mayor last week. Now the city is employing a larger and fiercer kind of monkey to scare off the attackers.

What solution would you propose when these larger, fiercer monkeys inevitably turn on their human masters?



Maria Gavric
Education II

"Carry handguns."



Andrew Esposito
Business III

"I'd say that we should breed a super species of snake, and then the snakes can go after the monkeys. [If the snakes turn on us,] we can use larger beings, such as bears. I'd say that the endgame is God."



Steven Tchir
Arts I

"We should just get even bigger monkeys. [If they turn on you], you keep getting bigger monkeys until you can't go any bigger." [What then?] "I don't know—then you're screwed."



Katrina Chaves
Arts III

"I don't know; shoot them all? What else would you do?"



Value of annual *Globe and Mail University Report Card* debated

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Prospective undergraduate students got another resource to help them pick their Canadian university of choice with the release of the *Globe and Mail*'s sixth annual *University Report Card*. However, the value of the report remains a matter of opinion.

"I worry that these types of surveys [...] aren't necessarily getting at a reliable measure of what students feel is important," said Steven Dollansky, University of Alberta Students' Union Vice-President (External).

The report compiled responses received from 43 000 undergraduate students from 53 Canadian universities who filled out an online survey asking them to rate their university experience. Simon Beck, editor of the *Globe and Mail University Report Card 2007*, noted that as the survey was "self-selecting," the number of respondents per institution varies.

"Obviously the bigger the university, the more likely the bigger the sample was," Beck said, adding that separating the schools into four size groups has facilitated fairer comparison.

"We don't think it's fair to compare a large school with a very small school because they have different challenges and often different aims and goals," Beck said. "You would only really want to be comparing the schools within each size grouping for a fair comparison."

Still, Dollansky said that there are "numerous different surveys done by external groups that all value different things" and that provide several different results.

"Without clear justifiable methodology behind it, [reports ranking universities] can sometimes be misleading to prospective students," he said.

Duncan Wojtaszek, executive director of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), added that students base their decision of where they want to go on a variety of factors.

"Often times, not all of those reasons are inculcated in [a] single report," he said. "I'm not trying to downplay [the *Report Card*, but] it's by no means the only criteria that a student will use when deciding what program to attend."

> **"An undergraduate student knows only [his or her] own situation in that single university."**
>
> **CARL AMRHEIN**
> U OF A PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

University rankings published by *Maclean's* magazine has faced continued opposition from postsecondary institutions who regard the statistics used as flawed, but Beck noted that the *Globe and Mail*'s rankings provide a different resource.

"We feel we do a complementary job to *Maclean's*; it's not really a directly comparable kind of process," he said.

"From the standpoint of an undergraduate student, the *Globe and Mail* report is probably more useful than the *MacLean's* report," added Carl Amrhein, U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic). "However, the *Globe and Mail* report is also flawed in the sense that it takes anybody that signs on to that website."

Students gave their opinions on over 100 different aspects of campus life, ranging from food quality, class size, technological resources, and athletics. And as Amhrein points out, it can't be assumed that students from different universities will evaluate things in the same way.

"An undergraduate student knows only [his or her] own situation in that single university," he said.

However, he said that despite its potential flaws, he still pays attention to the *Globe and Mail* survey, "because it does contain, even in a sort of rough form, information that we find useful.

"Even if it's only the students who get onto that website and respond, that's still a student summary judgment that I should pay attention to," he said. The U of A received less than stellar grades in things such as resident space, quality of food, and the accessibility of professors, and Amrhein added that those results will be considered.

Both Dollansky and Amrhein named the National Survey of Student Engagement as a resource with tight statistical quality control they refer to when engaging the student experience, and Beck emphasized that over the six years of doing the report, he thinks the overall attention that universities pay to the quality of student life has been increasing.

"We really think that [the *Report Card* has] had a good impact in that the universities take it seriously now and do listen to what their students say," Beck said.



ANDRIY CHERNEVYCH

CATERING TO CARS A four-level parkade is scheduled to open in October 2008 and will cost $32 million to build.

NEWS BRIEF

NEW PARKADE TO REPLACE STALLS LOST DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

Construction of a $32 million parkade to the south of the Jubilee Auditorium is set to begin in the coming days as the University prepares for a loss of parking stalls due construction elsewhere on campus.

The four-level, 700-plus stall structure will compensate for the stalls that will be displaced when construction of the Edmonton Clinic begins on the east edge of the Jubilee parking lot early next year, explained Darcy Scott, public affairs officer with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

The provincial department will aid with managing the project, while the University and Capital Health will split the bill.

The U of A recently released its Travel Demand Management strategy, which laid out the future for controlling and limiting the amount of single-occupant commuters coming to campus. As Bart Becker, Associate Vice-President (Planning & Infrastructure) for the University, explained, the new parkade will have no affect on this plan.

"It doesn't add any additional stalls," Becker said. "Therefore, it's in line with the Travel Demand Management strategy because we've committed to not increasing the number of stalls on campus."

However, one side effect of the new parkade will be an overlap in construction between the parking structure and the Edmonton Clinic.

"There's a high probability that sequential construction will occur, and that has already been taken into consideration with our permitting on campus when we did the sales this year," Becker explained, adding that parking passes for the Jubilee auditorium were drastically limited for this period.

The overlap means a that only 240-260 stalls will be available at the Jubilee for approximately nine months, until the parkade opens in October 2008. In the interim, parking for events at the auditorium will be deferred to the Varsity parking lot or Stadium parkade.

—Ryan Heise, Deputy News Editor



Mactaggart Art Collection brings oriental court to U of A

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Tucked away behind a rather inconspicuous door in the south side of the of the Telus Building, the temporary home of the University of Alberta Museums' Mactaggart Art Collection waits for visitors to take in its first exhibition—one that was three centuries in the making.

The premiere collection, titled Dressed to Rule: 18th Century Court Attire, was made possible by a donation of 734 Chinese paintings, textiles, and costumes by Cécile and Sandy Mactaggart, two private art collectors after whom the new museum is named.

"I wanted to make an exhibition that could only be made here at the University of Alberta," explained John Vollmer, an expert in the field of Asian textiles, costumes, and art, and guest curator of the exhibition. "It's one of the things that's sort of the first time out—we wanted to make a splash."

The exhibit is made up of a large collection of court garments and textiles dating from the Qing dynasty, 1644–1911. Many of the pieces are incredibly intricate and delicate yet have been very well preserved since being purchased by the Mactaggarts from private art markets since the 1960s.

While the textiles of the collection alone would make for an interesting exhibit, Vollmer explained that it's the series of paintings used to catalogue the many costumes that set the U of A's holdings apart.

"In many ways the University of Alberta is now on par with the Metropolitan Museum and even the [...] Palace Museum in Beijing. [But] neither the Metropolitan Museum nor the Palace Collection Museum in Beijing could make this exhibition; they don't have these paintings."

Vollmer explained that the paintings were commissioned in the 1740s as a review of the Manchu court wardrobe by the young Qianlong Emperor Prince Bao. The emperor appointed a commission to undertake the review, which aimed at legitimizing the Manchu rule and to show that the young emperor had his empire under control.

The result was an estimated 6000 illustrations of garments, many of which were turned into more permanent woodcarvings and actual costumes.

Most the garments on display were used by the Qing dynasty court for diplomatic endeavours, but they also elicit the lavishness of Chinese culture at the time. As Vollmer explained, even the hidden layers of the costumes were elaborately decorated.

"It signals a kind of extravagance that very few cultures have," he said. "It makes no sense in our culture to do this; if you're going to wear a topcoat, you don't need to have a fancy shirt."

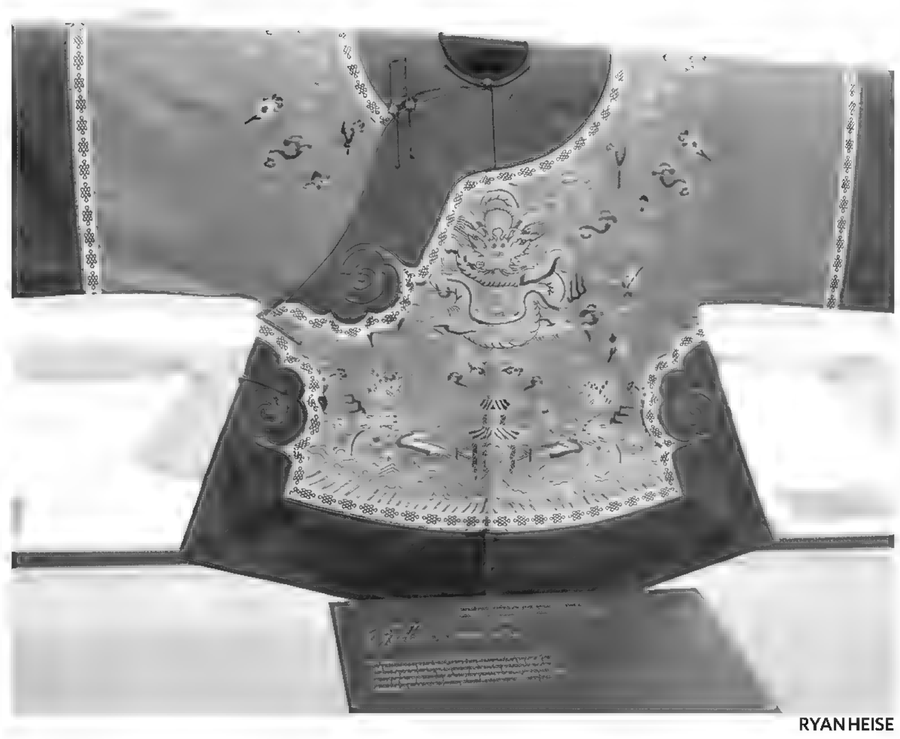
Vollmer added that he feels the collection will help both researchers and those coming to the exhibit to understand just how complex past Chinese cultural traditions were.

"In many ways, the garments that are here tell an economic history of traditional China—of organizing industry to produce goods in large enough quantities and then to encourage others to buy them."

Still, he believes that there's also a fundamental attraction to a collection such as this.

"It's full of things that the people love: they love the colour; they love the decoration; they love the significance of it," Vollmer explained.

"It's a collection that's very personal. It's of beautiful quality, in great condition, and it's things that are visually stunning."



RYAN HEISE

COURT IS IN SESSION Historic Chinese dress is on display at the Telus Centre.

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Tuition only one issue—Amrhein

STATSCAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't really see that [a] $400 difference is going to affect many choices."

But Dollansky pointed out that within Alberta, high tuition fees are adding to a demographic change in the students able to attend the U of A.

"Ten years ago, [there was a] wider spectrum of students from a more diverse economic background," he said. "Just because the slots are being filled doesn't mean that the institution is accessible—it means that it is accessible to a smaller and smaller portion of the population."

By continuing to pursue maximum tuition increases every year, Dollansky said, the U of A administration isn't recognizing the fact that learners are being turned away by high up-front costs. He added that in order to ensure that lower tuition doesn't mean lower quality, the SU would like to see a "fully-funded tuition roll-back" with the provincial government committing to fund whatever lost revenue the University incurs from lower tuition.

"We don't want to see the University left out in the cold," he stressed. "[But] the fact that we're above the national average, in a time of prosperity like this in Alberta, and we're not passing that prosperity onto learners who are going to sustain that growth, is just unacceptable."

Executive Director Council of Alberta University Alberta (CAUS) Duncan Wojtaszek echoed Dollansky's criticisms.

"In an environment like Alberta, where the government has plenty of resources to affect change, [...] we would have thought that that was a powerful reason to have lower tuition," he said.

Wojtaszek added that the ideal tuition level would be where finances are no longer a barrier for students.

"There's no magical figure. For every student that can't come because of finances, there's a whole host of things that influence that, but one of the important things is tuition," he said.

However, Amrhein noted that tuition fees are only a fraction of the costs students face, adding that in order to ensure accessibility, the entire spectrum of financial hardships associated with postsecondary education must be addressed.

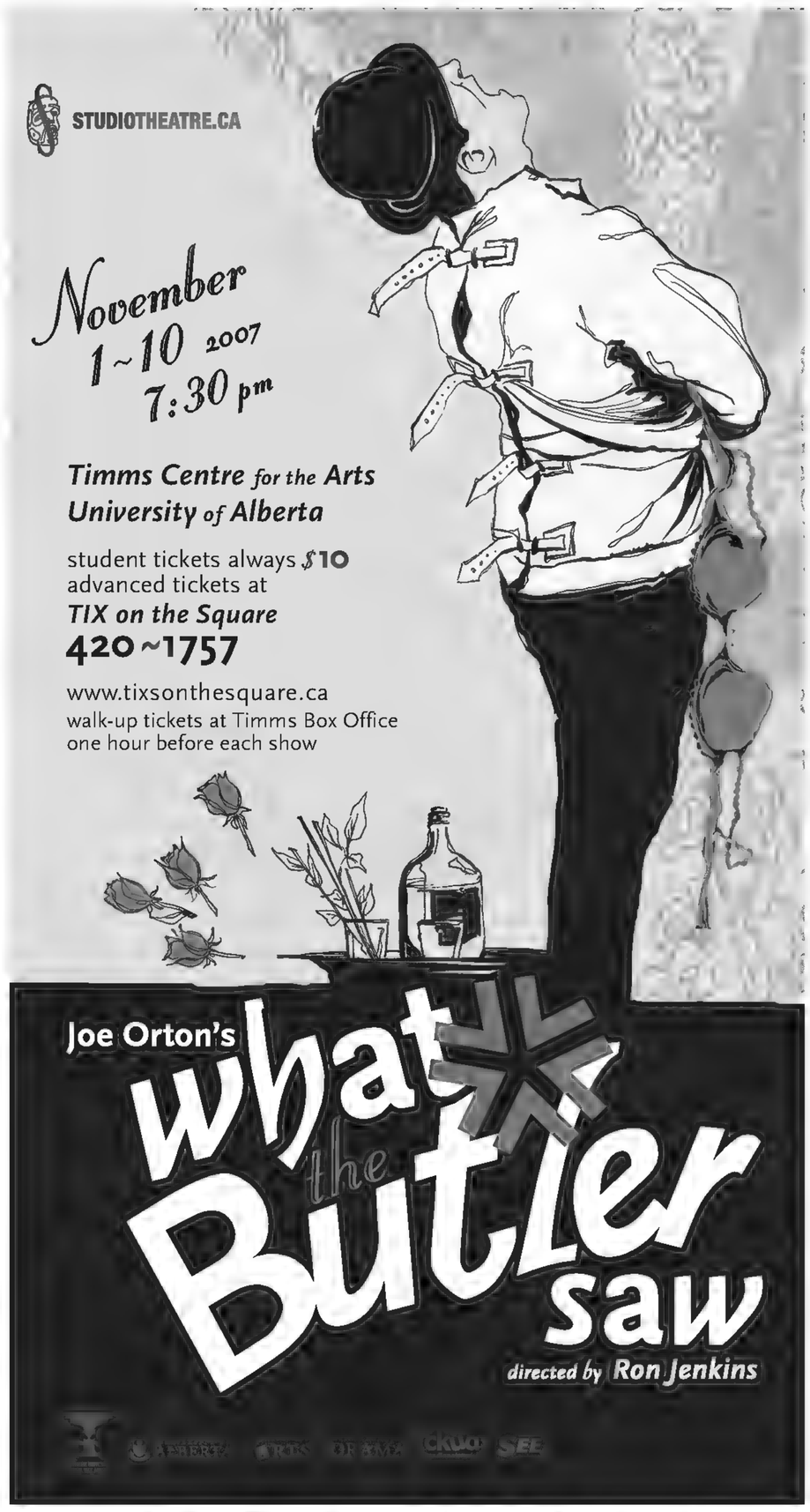
Tuition levels, he said, are "clearly important, but I worry also about those students in Alberta who have to come to either Edmonton or Calgary to get to one of the two big universities.

Tuition is only about a third of the cost they incur; room and board is twice tuition, roughly speaking."

Average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students

	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07 to 2007/08
	current $		% change
Canada	**4400**	**4524**	**2.8**
Newfoundland & Labrador	2633	2633	0.0
Prince Edward Island	4920	4440	-9.8
Nova Scotia	6422	5878	-8.5
New Brunswick	5470	5733	4.8
Quebec	1932	2025	4.8
Ontario	5155	5381	4.4
Manitoba	3319	3384	2.0
Saskatchewan	4774	4774	0.0
Alberta	***4763***	***4964***	***4.2***
British Columbia	4740	4855	2.4

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA



CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero and Mike Otto

NOW IT'S A UNICYCLE

Around noon on 10 October, a bike unit officer located a male acting suspiciously while in the bushes near the north side of the Tory building. It appeared that a male was dragging a bike missing its front tire into the bushes. The male fled after spotting the officer and the officer gave chase into the river valley. During the chase, the officers came upon a witness who was camping out in a tent and claimed that he had heard someone run by minutes earlier. The bike was recovered, and the following day a student attended the campus security office to report the theft of his bike from the north side of HUB.

WEREWOLVES OF EDMONTON

On the night of 10 October, it was reported that an oddly behaving male was heading east bound on 88 Avenue towards 111 Street. The male made an "aggressive stance" towards a passerby and then made growling and hissing noises as he walked by. The male then headed west towards 112 Street. Officers attended to the area; however, the male wasn't located. He is described as being in his mid-20s, wearing a light- colored sweater, black backpack, 5'6" tall, and with a muscular build.

THE RODEO'S OVER, AND SO'S YOUR NIGHT

On 11 October, CSS assisted bar staff at RATT in dealing with a male who refused to leave after he attempted to start fights with other customers. The male was described as wearing a cowboy hat. Although he admitted to having had a few and he backed himself into a corner and became extremely agitated and confrontational when asked to leave. The student was arrested and subsequently escorted to his home where he was released with no charges.

SIXTH TIME'S A CHARM

During the early hours of 12 October, an intoxicated male was located in the east Jubilee parking area. The male had come to the attention of CSS on five separate occasions for damaging property and on suspicious person complaints. He was issued a ticket for being intoxicated in a public place and escorted off campus. He has no current University affiliation.

DON'T SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM

On 13 October at about 1pm, a bike unit officer located two males smoking drugs near the Health Sciences LRT station. Both of the males had no university affiliation and had outstanding warrants for their arrest. EPS was contacted and attended a short time later. Both were arrested on the warrants and charged with drug possession.

JAYRUNNER

At about 6pm on 14 October, two males were approached by a peace officer for jaywalking near Newton Place. While one stopped, the other fled and was apprehended after a very short foot chase. It was determined that the male had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was issued a ticket for trespassing and was detained before being released into the custody of the EPS. The male has no university affiliation.

A REAL HEAD CASE

An intoxicated woman was found wandering around 112 Street on 22 October at 1:45am. She appeared to have a head injury and was transported to the hospital for assessment.

BAKE 'EM AWAY, TOYS

Three men were busted at 12:30am on 21 October after reports were received of damage to property near 114 Street and 83 Avenue. The group had kicked over a fence and flipped benches and newspaper boxes, and were caught in the act of trying to rip out a bus stop sign. The three weren't students, and were ticketed for public intoxication before being handed over to Edmonton Police Services.

OUTSTANDING IN A BAD WAY

University staff reported a suspicious male on the second floor of the Heritage Medical Research Building at about 6pm on 20 October. The unwelcome visitor was tracked down by Campus 5-0 and had been previously kicked off campus. He had a number of outstanding warrants for his arrest and was sent for a ride with EPS.

OBVIOUSLY NOT AN OLYMPIAN

At 12:20am on 20 October, a woman was threatened by a man near 112 Street and 88 Avenue. She pointed him out to Campus Security, and after a short foot chase the suspect was arrested. Neither of the parties were students, and the male was handed over to Edmonton Police.

IN YOUR METADATA, TRACING YOUR IP

A University staff member reported receiving hate mail in his University email account. After some computational wizardry, the message was found to have originated from out of province. Campus Security is investigating.

WE WOULDN'T HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR THE TAPE DECK, THOUGH

On 19 October a mountain bike was stolen from the north side of ETLC. The bike was red with yellow handlebars, and was secured with a lock. There are no suspects.



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StatsCan reveals Quebec has greatest fee increases

MATTHEW BRETT
The *Link*

MONTREAL (CUP)—Quebec is facing the highest tuition fee increase, the highest ancillary fee increase, and the highest international student tuition increase, according to Statistics Canada data released 18 October.

The Quebec government's decision to increase tuition by $50 per semester over the next five years is the leading factor in Quebec's 4.8 per cent tuition fee increase from the 2006/07 academic year, according to the study.

"I do understand that for some people it is an extremely high amount, and it's difficult to pay," Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota said. "[But] If you look at it from a budgetary standpoint, it's a drop in the bucket on what all of the Quebec universities need."

According to Mota, universities in Quebec are operating with $375 million less than other provinces.

Raynald Lortie, the chief of education finances for Statistics Canada, was quick to point out that while Quebec is facing some of the steepest fee increases, the province's actual tuition fee levels are under half the national average.

But, Angelica Novoa, Concordia Student Union (CSU) President, explained that "the fact that we pay less than the average in Canada means that we are an example to the rest of Canada as to what accessible education means.

"Society in Quebec has decided as a whole to prioritize education."

University students in Quebec also faced the steepest compulsory fees—often referred to as ancillary fees—in the country. The study recorded a 25.1 per cent increase in additional charges in Quebec from the 2006/07 academic year.

A large part of the ancillary fee increase was incurred by a recently introduced Technology and Infrastructure Fee, which is said to go towards "smart classrooms" and wireless connectivity.

"It's absolutely unacceptable," Novoa said. "Universities across Quebec [...] keep charging ancillary fees to students without getting any benefit added from that money."

Universities in Quebec have seen a 300 per cent increase in ancillary fees over twelve years, according to the Quebec Federation of University Students.

Concordia University charged $696 in ancillary fees for the 2006/07 academic year—$267 of which were student-generated fees voted upon by student union members.

"Our students do seem to think certain causes, certain programs, are worth investing in," Mota explained

During the CSU's 11 October council meeting, the Concordia Student Union voted for an authorization request for fee levies directed towards an emergency food bank and a free daily lunch at one of the university's campuses.

"We need to be here for the students in need, whether that be financial or academic," said Fauve Castagna, CSU Vice-President (Finance).

Students support false cabs

Brock University administration, Niagara police force warn against using illegal taxi services that have become popular with students due to low costs

STEVE WOODHEAD
The *Brock Press*

ST CATHARINES (CUP)—Illegal taxi services near Brock University are providing a less expensive option for students, while officials warn about the safety of these makeshift cabs.

As more and more of the illegal taxis are caught at the university, Campus Security is trying to educate students about the dangers of getting in an unlicensed taxi, which offer lower fares than their licensed counterparts.

"Students should understand that if there isn't a licensed taxi driver behind the wheel, it's just some guy driving a car," said Sergeant Mike McAllister of the Niagara Regional Police. "If it doesn't have a sign on top, don't get in."

McAllister explained that illegal taxi organizations, known to Brock students and Campus Security alike, aren't run like legitimate cab companies. Instead, he said the illegal taxis often operate only by cell phone and lack stringent background checks for their drivers. This, he further explained, makes them less reliable and highly suspicious to both Niagara Police and Campus Security at Brock University.

Unlicensed taxi services aren't allowed on Brock University property. Drivers caught dropping off a student are issued a trespassing notice, according to Mayla Parrent, assistant director of Campus Security.

But repeat offenders are often familiar to Campus Security officers.

"We do have a particular individual who is very well-known here at Brock and has been charged numerous times, to the point that he now has to appear in court," Parrent said. "And he still has the system beat—he drops students off at McDonald's across the street."

> **"Students should understand that if there isn't a licensed taxi driver behind the wheel, it's just some guy driving a car. If it doesn't have a sign on top, don't get in."**
>
> **SERGEANT MIKE MCALLISTER**
> NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

McAllister hopes students in St Catherines will realize that the safeguards and licensing procedures used by legitimate taxi services are often ignored by the unlicensed cabs operating in the area.

"[Legal cab companies] are licensed through my office, which means the vehicle has proper insurance for carrying additional passengers, people are covered from a liability perspective, and the drivers are all checked through for possible past offences, sexual or otherwise. We make sure they don't have drug issues and that they have a valid driver's license," McAllister said.

Niagara Regional Police and Campus Security have received numerous complaints about illegal cabs. The list includes reckless driving, selling drugs out of the cars, and sexual harassment bordering on molestation.

The lack of insurance coverage could also leave passengers without recourse to compensation in the event of an accident.

"The question to ask a student is, if you were to be injured while travelling with one of these drivers and you needed special medical treatment or equipment, who's covering you?" McAllister said, adding that riding in an illegal cab leaves students unprotected should something go wrong.

"These illegal taxis have no insurance plans; regular taxis do," he said.

Yet the issue for most students is still money. Since illegitimate cabs avoid the costly registration of their cars and drivers, they're able to undercut the prices of legitimate cab companies. As a result, other cab companies in town have introduced flat-rate systems for Brock students, depending on the destination.

Until more students refuse to call the unlicensed cabs, however, McAllister said that the situation can't be resolved.

"The worst hasn't happened yet, but I'm afraid it's going to."

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monkeys at his home, resulting in fatal head injuries after the terrorizing simians forced the man off a balcony.



The Deputy Mayor of New Dehli was recently attacked by wild

At *Gateway* News meetings, which take place on Fridays at 3pm in SUB 3-04, deputy news editor Ryan Heise has undergone rigorous training in case such an outbreak of fur and fangs occurs. Also, no balconies.

GATEWAY NEWS
Quelling the monkey uprising since 1910

Gay Dumbledore teaches tolerance

IN A RECENT APPEARANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL, when asked whether or not Albus Dumbledore ever fell in love, Harry Potter creator JK Rowling shocked fans by revealing that the beloved wizard was, in fact, intended to be gay. Not to have this misconstrued as her saying that gay men are incapable of love, she followed up by explaining that, as a young man, he fell in love with the dark wizard Grindlewald—statements that were met with thunderous, well-deserved applause from the audience.

This is the kind of thing that slash-fiction writers worldwide have been dreaming of, and the religious right are also breathing a sigh of relief knowing that they dodged a bullet in banning this work of dark man-on-man magic, but I see this as a real triumph. After all, it isn't every day that you see a positive, non-stereotypical gay role model in literature—especially not in a best-selling children's book.

This is especially significant considering it was another children's book, *Jenny lives with Eric and Martin*, that sparked the controversy that led to the introduction of Section 28—a constitutional amendment prohibiting "local authorities" from promoting homosexuality, or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship"—into British Law in 1988. And should you think that this occurred a long time ago in a completely different political climate, this amendment wasn't successfully repealed until 2003, after several failed attempts.

You needn't look further than the debate surrounding gay marriage to see that people are still afraid of the imagined negative effects of gay authority figures on children. There's a belief that by condoning the gay lifestyle, it will result in homosexual hypnosis, with children busting out the assless leather chaps with the snap of a pair of well-manicured fingers. This is, and always has been, blatantly ridiculous. Rowling has done us all a favour by promoting tolerance and diversity in her cast of characters.

Of course, now that Dumbledore's stopped hiding with Aslan and come out of the wardrobe, people are going to start rereading the books in search of clues that hinted at his hidden sexuality. But aside from some convoluted Freudian interpretations of his skill with a "wand"—or, to go more low-brow, his love for chocolate frogs—they're going to find that there weren't any.

To read Dumbledore as anything other than a caring mentor who just so happens to be gay is clutching at straws. It's assuming that, in essence, there must be something fundamentally different between the behaviour of a gay and straight man that goes beyond mere sexuality, which is, unfortunately, how many gay characters tend to be portrayed.

This revelation doesn't alter the character one bit, as throughout the series, Dumbledore can be seen as a largely asexual surrogate parent. Therefore, any kind of potential backlash stirred up by this non-issue is not only unwarranted but completely unjustified—even if it were revealed that Dumbledore had relations with a centaur in his wilder days, it shouldn't affect our view of his relationship with the students at Hogwarts, and Harry in particular.

The most important thing about Rowling's revelation is that it demonstrates to children that an individual's sexuality has no bearing, nor should it have any, on an individual's ability to be kind, honest, or caring. It's a positive message that shows that homosexual men don't have to fit in to a pre-conceived archetype and don't always have to be the self-loathing Voldemort, or an effeminate Neville Longbottom.

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor

Get this man a tissue

Homecoming sob-fest
Keeps Smytty off the scoresheet
Likewise for the Oil

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor



NORMAN LAU

LETTERS

Pumpkin smashed; poverty remains

It seems to me that a true desire to eradicate poverty requires critical self-evaluation to determine whether we, with our actions, are actually easing or exacerbating the problem. Last week's Make Poverty History spectacle appeared to be doing the latter.

As people stood around in their designer clothing (most likely made in some Third World sweatshop), watching a crane (hired at anywhere from $150-300 an hour for at least three hours) hoist a [500]lb pumpkin (which would have made a lot of soup at the soup kitchen for many local citizens who don't have enough to eat), into the air and drop it on a van (of unknown value but certainly requiring some cost to get it to and from the site), I couldn't help but wonder how such a wanton display of wasteful activity helped ease the concerns of those people actually affected by poverty.

Easing poverty is a difficult, never-ending process requiring sacrifice and responsible, self-critical lifestyles—particularly for those of us living in the affluent materialistic Western societies. There may have been symbolism in the "smashing" of the pumpkin, but in the eyes of the less fortunate, I doubt it was the symbolism that the organizers of this event wished to portray.

MARVIN DUECK
Music II

Ribbons battle apathy

Your certainty is mistaken, Douglas (re: "People can't live off of eating fancy ribbons," 18 October). The plastic streamers didn't end up strewn across Quad, and the money and time spent on them were insignificant compared to the impact they made. Putting up a few fancy ribbons to fight the unbelievable scale of apathy in our university is a small price to pay.

If you would like to suggest more effective ways to engage the student body on the issue of poverty, you are invited to share them on the Make Poverty History Edmonton Facebook group or at our next General Members Meeting this Thursday at 5pm in the Earth Sciences Building room 2-36.

MARK MCCORMACK
President
Make Poverty History campaign

Have sex with her? But I don't know the girl, sir

I hate to do this (that's what she said), but I'm afraid I must point out several errors in the 18 October letter from my esteemed roommate, Catrin Berghoff (re: "*Pickle Frenzy*, we hardly knew ye").

First, as kind as it was of the *Gateway* to edit in the full name the board game club commonly known as POGOB, the P in fact stands not for "Playing," but for "Players."

Second, the adjective Ms Berghoff chose to describe said club is in fact spelled "illustrious." This error is massive, and sullies the *Gateway* letter section's good name. I can't believe you let something that massive in there. Which is what she said.

Third, Ms Berghoff's implication that she is in any way superior to me in the art of juvenile sexual innuendo is plainly ridiculous, as evidenced by her need to essentially flat out lie simply to have an excuse to make a strained play on the word "verbatim." I don't have to lie to get what I need, and that's what she said.

You might have to think about that one, but it'll come. (That's what she said.)

Finally, as to Ms Berghoff's original complaint that Mike Kendrick stole the idea for the 16 October *Pickle Frenzy* comic from me, I must admit that I'm not convinced—though in truth it wouldn't be the first time Mr Kendrick had taken inspiration for one of his comics from me. At any rate, even if Ms Berghoff's accusation is true, I'm not offended: Mr Kendrick is welcome to take it from me anytime he'd like, if you know what I mean.

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts ∞

The "S" is for students, not salesmen

I'm calling upon my fellow students to unite and rid our Student's Union Building of the outer world plague. SUB is a haven for us, the undergrads: a place where we may congregate and hide out from the pressures of society for a while.

We come to socialize, to chat, to eat, and to study with each other. This is our building. We welcome with open arms the people who are sympathetic to our purpose and are here to help us. We embrace student groups who are here to create a unique experience for all of us. But what we don't want is the fucking plague of capitalists who come here to exploit us. It's a sad day when I can walk out of the Financial Aid office, turn a corner, and be confronted by somebody in a tie with no affiliation to the University who wants me to sign up for his fucking credit card.

I say we boycott these people. Tell them that they're not welcome here. If I want a credit card, I will go to the bank and get one. Don't come to me because I'll believe anything. If I want to buy some hippie shit, I will walk down Whyte and come to your store. If I want to shop at Costco, I will go to Costco.

As students, it's our responsibility to protect ourselves from this. Let's boycott these people. Ignore them completely, send them a message that we do not want them here because SUB is for the students.

ERIC KONSCHUH
Science III

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments please).

The Gateway *reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The* Gateway *also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

The white-feather-headed eagle (which is improperly referred to as the "bald eagle") was recently removed from the endangered species list, meaning that we can now enjoy its precious eggs.

At *Gateway* Opinion, we support the circle of life by encouraging "threatened" species to flourish by hunting them ruthlessly for their sweet, sweet, currency-worthy meat.
So drop by our 4pm Thursday meetings where we'll discuss the merits of saving the world one buckshot at a time.



GATEWAY OPINION
Finding convenient truths since 1910



KATHRYN DUTCHAK

New, expanded Henday just the freeway to the congestion zone



BRIAN GOULD

"The last thing Edmonton needs is another barrier to regional co-operation, but the Henday will be just that. With fewer interchanges and crossings than Whitemud Drive, the Henday will be a barrier even to cars, but more importantly, it will be essentially impenetrable to pedestrians and bicycles."

A sinister threat to Edmonton's future opened earlier this week, though apparently everybody's been too busy celebrating to notice. The previous sections of Anthony Henday Drive were limited in effect, but by linking them from Yellowhead to Yellowhead, it will accelerate sprawl, automobile traffic, and driving distances to frightening levels. Despite this, almost everyone is welcoming this freeway with open arms.

There's been some controversy over the name—however, it's quite appropriate. Anthony Henday was, after all, a convicted smuggler, and reincarnating him as a roadway isn't effective rehabilitation. Likewise, Anthony Henday Drive will smuggle jobs, developments, residents, and funding out of Edmonton, and we'll only see the full scope of this damage after it has already been done.

For an explorer with such a vast land to map, Henday was a horrible cartographer. The Hudson's Bay Company committee would later record, "We apprehend Henday is not very expert in making Drafts with Accuracy or keeping a just Reckoning of distance other than by guess." But despite his unsuitability for the job, Henday was unleashed on the Prairies, charged with encouraging natives to make the long journey from central Alberta to a trading post on Hudson's Bay.

Seven years after its completion, Henday's mission was deemed a failure. It did, however, teach the company that in order to effectively trade and co-operate with their partners, they would be better off setting up where the population already was, rather than remaining isolated and encouraging long-distance travel. It was this realization that resulted in the creation of Fort Edmonton in the first place.

More recent history shows what ring roads will do to a city. Finished in 1964, Washington's 103km Capital Beltway was originally hailed as a "huge wedding ring for the metropolitan area" and an efficient truck bypass. The resulting road is neither, with DC-proper's population in continual decline and later expansion to eight lanes failing to relieve chronic and crippling congestion. The damage has been so intense that "outside the beltway" is now synonymous with suburban sprawl, and the road is a symbol for class segregation.

But we seem to have ignored the impact of these types of roads, and are instead concentrating on how every other Canadian prairie city has one. Winnipeg, Regina, and Saskatoon all have them, Calgary's building one, and Grande Prairie's planning one too. And when fully open, the Henday will be the envy of Moose Jaw. We're even planning a second one for thirty years hence, which doesn't exactly inspire confidence in the Henday solving our transportation problems.

The last thing Edmonton needs is another abstract barrier to regional co-operation, but the Henday will be just that. With fewer interchanges and crossings than Whitemud Drive, the Henday will be a barrier even to cars, but more importantly, it will be essentially impenetrable to pedestrians and bicycles. With bridges 16 blocks apart and huge swaths of empty land on either side, the distances are immense, and there's no reason to cross to more useless suburbia on the other side anyway. It's also rather effective as a giant moat—though given the choice between four lanes of traffic screaming by at 120km per hour and a few snapping crocodiles, I'll take the crocs.

Alarmingly, one frequent argument is that because we've removed traffic lights, this is actually a win for the environment. Even if it wasn't a disaster just building it, that would only be true if we could somehow keep travel distances constant. Unfortunately, without incredibly involved policies like tolls or rationing, it's nowhere near possible.

Studies prove that building roads to relieve congestion only results in more traffic in the long term—look no further than Anthony Henday Drive at Stony Plain Road. Quicker car trips will only lead to people driving longer distances, and more room for more cars will, unsurprisingly, mean more cars.

This whole "we have to build the freeway to save the environment" argument sounds very much like Seinfeld's "we have to have sex to save the friendship" approach. Maybe that's what feels so wrong about all of this: next thing you know, we'll be taking advice from George and banning "front-first" parallel parking, or copying Kramer's Adopt-a-Highway antics. Then again, maybe what the Henday really needs is double-wide comfort lanes.

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CASA not all it's cracked up to be

Past execs were right to kick it to the curb, and we shouldn't go crawling back



SCOTT LILWALL

Student politics are lot like the dating scene at times: most of those involved are nervous and awkward, and occasionally, fancy suits are worn. And just like romantic entanglements, sometimes you fall in with the wrong partner, one that you eventually realize you were better off not getting in bed with. But even worse than finding yourself paired with this heartbreaker is when you go crawling back to that bad relationship on your hands and knees.

This is pretty much the situation facing the Students' Union now, with Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky pushing for a big second chance with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). Both Dollansky and SU President Michael Janz have argued that joining CASA, a group that lobbies the federal government on behalf of students, would give the University of Alberta a presence on the national stage. With the SU Exec propping up student loans as one of this year's hot issues, getting heard at the federal level is going to be high on the list of priorities—one that the Exec seems willing to pay CASA's steep membership fee to achieve.

This isn't the first time that we've reconsidered our relationship with CASA—the U of A was a founding member of the group back in 1995. The honeymoon soon ended, however, as the SU began to feel that the organization was ineffective and wasn't quite listening to its needs. Counselling was tried, and a conference held with McGill's SU yielded a number of recommendations for changes. Unfortunately, our SU soon learned that sometimes you just can't change a federal lobbying body. By 2002, they decided to dump CASA, and have stayed out of federal matters since.

The talk of hooking up with CASA again strikes one as nothing but posturing from Janz and Dollansky. It's an easy way to look like you're sticking it to the government and raising awareness without putting in much effort.

One has to ask why we are discussing a reconciliation now—it's not as if CASA has really changed their ways or become all that more effective. In fact, the two main activities of the alliance still remain pretty much the same: sustaining the childish rivalry with its arguably more radical cousin, the Canadian Federation of Students, and being involved in scandal.

When not dealing with embezzlement schemes and succession scandals, CASA puts together meetings with federal politicians and attempts to raise awareness of education issues in Ottawa. The problem is that postsecondary education is the territory of the provincial government, and that's where the U of A's advocacy efforts should lie.

Despite having its own flaws, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) has been focused on lobbying the province, where decisions can have a real impact on the costs of education and living for students. Representing around 60 000 students in Alberta, CAUS has the heft to make education an issue for Premier Stelmach and the opposition come election time.

In contrast, with war, economy, and environment sucking up all the attention on the federal level, there's only so much pull that a group like CASA can have. Stephen Harper didn't even bother to mention education, postsecondary or otherwise, in last week's Throne Speech; perhaps more tellingly, none of the other parties really mentioned the omission.

The talk of hooking up with CASA again strikes one as nothing but posturing from Janz and Dollansky. It's an easy way to look like you're sticking it to the government and raising awareness without putting in much effort. The truth is that CASA isn't aging gracefully, and is losing suitors left and right. The universities of Saskatchewan and Manitoba recently wrote the organization their Dear John letters, and none of the schools in British Columbia have ever found her that attractive.

While things may change and the federal level certainly might become a good target in the future, at the moment it remains an expensive distraction from the work that the SU is doing at the provincial level. Instead of spreading resources thin by playing the field, we should settle down and focus on provincial gains first. Because in the end, we don't gain much by hooking up with the old flame—just a lot of heartache.

Trying to make God a fact just takes away from faith



PAUL KNOECHEL

While there have been many enemies of faith to come and go over the years, the most threatening and insidious have persisted in their mission to disprove God's existence. I speak, of course, about the creationists. Those who carry the torch of creationism are trying to trap God in a burning windmill, and it's time something changed.

For those of you who are removed from the struggle, you're perhaps confused, though this simply stems from a misunderstanding about the nature of faith. Douglas Adams perhaps summed it up the best in a conversation between man and God in one of his books.

In the dialogue, God refuses to prove his existence as "proof denies faith, and without faith, [He is] nothing." However, the existence of the Babelfish contradicts this, as "it could not have evolved by chance," and therefore, proves that there's a higher power. A fact that causes God to disappear in "a poof of logic."

By this same logic, all you need to do is prove the theory of creationism, and in doing so, you destroy God.

What isn't obvious is why creationists are so bent on the destruction of God. They seem to be the type of people that would want God to exist, but all the while they're fighting the idea of evolution, which is simply God's way of covering his tracks.

God is under attack in various ways. Entire museums have been built in the name of creationism. While they try to promote a family atmosphere, allowing children to frolic with dinosaurs in the Garden of Eden, those who look deeper see the truth. These are nothing but glorified bunkers against the divine, using their animatronic dinosaurs as foot soldiers to man the front lines.

What's worse is that intelligent design is now being taught alongside evolution in some science classes south of the border. They're doing the unthinkable by turning science against God. People sometimes don't realize that God gave us science so that we could explain things for ourselves without the need to involve him. This ensured that the divine would be safe for another day. Now, God must fear his very tool of concealment being used against him.

But this may yet be God's rallying cry. So I implore all of you: use science, reason, logic, and every other deductive power at your disposal to explain the world around you. Ruin the mystery of a rainbow for a child; reduce the wonder of a night sky to physics for your friends; point out the lack of proof for the soul to the elderly. Perhaps, with some effort, we can make it impossible to prove the existence of God. Then we can finally keep him where he belongs: to ourselves.

THE BURLAP SACK

This edition of the Burlap Sack goes out to those of you still going to RATT and clogging SUB's woefully inadequate elevators in the process. This beating could be dispensed for obviously selfish reasons—after all, the *Gateway*'s offices are on the third floor, serviced exclusively by said elevators—but nay, this beating is warranted because the Students' Union has finally provided a decent alternative, Dewey's, which is now actually a real restaurant.

Thanks to the closure of the 'Plant, RATT is so busy that it takes 20 minutes to get service, a completely arbitrary amount of time for the food to show up, and another 20 to get the bill. Good luck getting your food warm.

In case you haven't tried Dewey's menu, I'll let you know right now that it's friggin' delicious. A pound of sweet potato fries can be had for mere dollars, and the nachos are best described as mountainous. And like RATT, Dewey's has a full selection of delicious alcohols.

There's no good reason to frequent RATT when Dewey's has a superior menu, quicker service, and similar prices. So, into the sack RATT patrons, and after the beating, into the elevator. You may be stuck there a while.

MIKE OTTO

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

